

THE ATHENÆUM

Journal of English and Foreign Literature, Science, and the Fine Arts.

No. 2142.

LONDON, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1868.

PRICE
THREEPENCE
Stamped Edition, 4d.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.—
PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION, 1868.—NOTICE is hereby given, that the Vice-Chancellor of the University of London will proceed to the ELECTION of a MEMBER to serve in PARLIAMENT for the University of London on TUESDAY, November 17, at 10 o'clock precisely, in the New Building of the University, Burlington Gardens. All Graduates whose names are on the Register of Convocation are invited to attend at such Time and Place.
(Signed) GEORGE GROTE,
Vice-Chancellor, Returning Officer.

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The first Lecture (open to the Public) will be delivered on MONDAY, November 23rd.
JOHN ROBSON, B.A., Secretary to the Council.

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The PROFESSORSHIP of ITALIAN is now VACANT. The Names of Candidates will be received up to November 28th. Particulars may be had on application to Miss MILWARD, at the College Office.
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JUNIOR ATHENÆUM CLUB.—NOTICE is hereby given that the NEW CLUB-HOUSE, 116, Piccadilly, will be OPEN for the use of the Members on MONDAY NEXT, the 16th inst.
By Order of the Committee,
GEORGE R. WRIGHT, F.S.A., Secretary.

ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY of LONDON, 4, St. Martin's-place, Trafalgar-square: TUESDAY, November 17, at 8 p.m. Papers to be read: "Anthropogenesis," adjoined discussion: "Language as a Test of Race," Dr. Charnock and Mr. Wake; "Origin of Language," Mr. Hodder M. Westropp, F.R.S.
J. FRED. COLLINGWOOD, Secretary.

SACRED HARMONIC SOCIETY, Exeter Hall—Conductor, Mr. COSTA. The THIRTY-SEVENTH SEASON will COMMENCE on FRIDAY NEXT, 20th November, with Mr. Costa's Oratorio, "NAAMAN." Subscribers will be entitled to the option of retaining their Stalls or Reserved Seats up to Monday next, 16th November. The Subscription is, for Stalls, Three Guineas; for Reserved Seats, Two Guineas. The Office, No. 6, Exeter Hall, open daily, from Ten till six, for the Receipt of Subscriptions and Issue of Prospectuses for the ensuing Season.

ECLECTIC DEBATING SOCIETY.
FOURTEENTH SESSION, 1868-9.
The First Three Debates of the Session will be held at Freemasons' Tavern, Great Queen-street, W.C., as follows:—
THURSDAY, Nov. 19th.—Subject: "That it is desirable several Working Men sit in the New Parliament."
Affirmative—Mr. W. H. Barnard.
Negative—Mr. Percy Ridley.
THURSDAY, Nov. 26th.—Subject: "That the 'Minority Clause' ought to be repealed."
Affirmative—Mr. W. H. Salter.
Negative—Mr. F. E. Nicholson.
THURSDAY, Dec. 10th.—Subject: "That Herporth Dixon's writings do not exert an injurious influence."
Affirmative—Mr. J. B. Porter.
Negative—Mr. E. Thomas.
Chair taken each Evening at Half-past Seven precisely. All communications to be addressed to the Secretary, Freemasons' Tavern, Great Queen-street, W.C.

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Settle, October, 1868.

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STATISTICAL SOCIETY.—TUESDAY NEXT, 17th inst., 8 p.m. Paper will be read by Professor JEVONS, M.A. On the Amount of the Metallic Currency of the United Kingdom, with Reference to the Question of International Coinage.

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LITERATURE

Greater Britain: a Record of Travel in English-Speaking Countries during 1866 and 1867. By Charles Wentworth Dilke. 2 vols. With Maps and Illustrations. (Macmillan & Co.)

A good idea lies at the root of Mr. Dilke's record of travel. The author set out, as every man must do who journeys to and fro in the earth to any purpose, with a definite object in his mind: he went forth, at first across the Atlantic Ocean, afterwards across the Pacific Ocean, in search of that great Saxon Commonwealth into which the England of Elizabeth's time has grown. It is a vast empire, this Saxon Commonwealth; the search for which led the seeker round the habitable world.

The kingdom of Elizabeth is so great in song, in science, in adventure, that we are apt to forget how small it was in fact. The companions of Shakespeare, of Bacon, of Raleigh, are so famous in story that they fill our hemisphere of thought like the stars in a summer sky. We need to rein in the wild steeds of imagination before we can picture to ourselves the true image of our race in the reign of Queen Bess, for any purpose of comparison with the Saxon Commonwealth of this present day.

In the time of Elizabeth England was the sole home of English-speaking men and women. It was a narrow country, tenanted by a small family of sons; and in mere size of territory and extent of population we were regarded by some speculators as a sixth-rate power.

Spain was then paramount. France was nearly her equal, and of course claimed to be her superior. The Holy Roman Empire was the first state in rank, and, perhaps, the third in actual power. Turkey, which in those days stood apart, splendid, meteoric, mysterious, was not less formidable in the East than Spain was in the West. These few countries held the world in fee. All other powers, though sometimes exercising influence, were of importance only as the allies of either Germany, Spain or France. Savoy gained a sphere by throwing herself between France and Spain, just as her interests prompted her to arm and act. Venice acquired importance as a Christian naval power in the Levant. But the North was yet dark and silent. Prussia was still a desert of sand and pools. Russia was a forest of larch and pine; Sweden gave only fitful signs of life. Holland was crippled by war; the Rhine princes were divided by religious feuds. England claimed, it is true, a place among the foremost nations; but her claim, which certainly looked ridiculous on a map, was only too often rejected by France and Spain as a practical joke. One king of Spain said his bastard daughter was a good enough wife for a Prince of Wales.

The whole of England was not English. In Cornwall a remnant of the ancient race could not read Bacon's 'Essays,' could not hear and understand Shakespeare's plays. West of Gloucester in the south, and Chester in the north, very few persons could use the English tongue. All the Welsh used Welsh; all the Highland Scots used Gaelic; all the Irishry used Erse. When Elizabeth came to her crown fewer people spoke English than now reside within the limits of London. Thrice as many living men spoke French; five times as many spoke German; seven times as many spoke Spanish. How stand these points of comparison now?

A man speculating on material data only as to the chance of any one race ever coming

to a practical mastery of the world would, in the days of Charles the Fifth, undoubtedly have given that chance to the Spaniards. The earth seemed theirs, to mould it as they would. Madrid was the centre of a vast system of rule, which embraced Europe on the right hand, America on the left. Spain was but the home county, so to speak, of this great empire; Germany was the chief province; America the main colony. But the empire was established in Sicily, in Flanders, in the Milanese, as firmly as in Jamaica, in the Caribbean Sea, and on the Pacific shores. The Rhine and the Danube were treated as Spanish rivers. Spanish was the fashionable speech at Naples, at Quito, at Brussels, at Mexico, at Vienna, as well as in the courtly circles nearer home. It was the language of trade as well as of compliment and of diplomacy—the only tongue ever heard beyond the Line and beyond the Cape. What is true of the idiom is also true of the coinage. Spanish money was the circulating medium of the world. English merchants, when they sent out vessels to Cambay, were obliged to exchange their unrecognized native coins for those fine Spanish doubloons which were known to every trader in the East.

Since that day, what a change! From the times of Charles the Fifth, though the population of Spain itself has probably increased, the area of Spanish-speaking country has greatly diminished, and that to our own all but exclusive profit. Under Elizabeth we began to grow. Then we left off fighting France—a pastime which had illustrated our capacity for war, which had carried us into French vineyards once or twice in every century, but which had been wasting our money and our manhood in a contest without end. We could not hope to conquer France and hold it in easy fee. When we gave up the attempt, and turned our strength towards the sea-coast of the new world in the west, we began to thrive in a way of which only such keen politicians as Raleigh had ever dreamt. We had fought the French with sword and lance; we fought the Spaniards with spade and plough. We had done well enough with the first in Picardy and Guienne; we did still better with the second on the James River and in the neighbourhood of Plymouth Rock. In time we drove the Spaniard out of northern America, and in some measure out of the West Indies. We kept him away from the Cape, and we superseded his doubloons in Hindustan. In fact, we upset the speculations of those who could have given the chance of mastery to the Spaniard, and the small family of three million islanders have belted the whole globe with our colonies.

Nor is this great triumph all. As Mr. Dilke points out, we have done more than spread ourselves abroad and multiply until we have become "many nations"; for we have not only grown from three millions of English-speaking people into seventy millions at least, with a rate of growth which will make us a hundred millions in twenty years, three hundred millions in a hundred years, but have drawn into our current a good many alien forces. The language of Shakespeare is spoken by millions of men whose fathers, in Shakespeare's day, spoke Danish, Dutch, French, German, Italian, Erse. These men have been fused into an English mould. Whether they live in America or in Australia, they have been induced to adopt a new idiom, a new law, a new habit. How have they been induced to do so? Where have the English of Elizabeth found the secret of such a success? Mr. Dilke assumes that the explanation lies mainly in the word "race"; and we think he is right; but we should like

to see a full statement of the causes which have brought these grand results about, through that instrumentality of race.

The primary cause of the Anglo-Saxon emigration is not easy to see. It was not want—the one explanation offered by modern theorists for all great movements of our race. The men who moved out from England to the New World were not poor. They did not lack bread, and very few of them lacked money and land. In truth, the first adventurers were either rich themselves or were connected with people who were rich. The ships were freighted with "gentlemen," and the colonies settled at Roanoke and James Town almost perished for lack of men who could reap and sow. England was not then crowded; and ministers were so far from complaining that people pressed on the means of life, that the cry was every day raised and repeated that the country was perishing for want of men. During the reigns of Elizabeth and James the First patriots were constantly urging that the land was being unpeopled, that houses were left empty, that farms were ruined, that the plough was falling out of use, and that the orchard and the corn-field were being given up to sheep. In every session the topic of decaying towns was brought under debate. There was some exaggeration, perhaps, in the stories told. Nothing leads us to believe that the population of England was really diminishing in the reign of Elizabeth; but it was certainly not increasing beyond the power of the soil to feed. Some towns, especially towns in Sussex, were decaying, and in many places the favourite image of the poets—that of an abandoned city occupied by a shepherd and his dog—was based on fact. Waste lands abounded; and England fed only a man where, under high cultivation, it might have fed a man with his wife and three children. The migration was not caused by want.

Be the cause what it may, the migration began; and here, after two centuries and three quarters, we have a survey of the result.

Mr. Dilke made a tour of the world, without quitting what we may call the Saxon zone, almost without leaving the Saxon Commonwealth. Leaving Liverpool for New York, he passed by way of Chicago and St. Louis, over the Great Plains and the Rocky Mountains, to California. New Zealand, South Australia, Ceylon, Hindustan, and so by way of Egypt home again. In this circuit, he was never out of ear-shot of the English tongue, and generally he was among men who called themselves English, and the small western island their mother country. How these men maintain the character of their race—how they live and grow, what they think and do—he tells us in this brief and rapid survey of our globe.

The first volume deals with the United States and New Zealand; the second volume with Australia and India. From the subject being less worn by travelling writers, the New Zealand and Australian chapters have a greater freshness, and will better please the general reader; but many thoughtful persons will prefer those chapters in which the author deals with the politics of India and the United States.

Mr. Dilke is one of those thorough Liberals who openly give their sympathies to the Republican party in the States. He sees no hope for the republic except in the continued mastery of the North—aided, as the North must be, by a full enfranchisement of the coloured race. Even if the blacks should come to rule their old white masters, by a true majority of free men voting at the state elections, he sees no great harm in it; at all events, he is prepared

to accept such a fact as a development of democratic rule. Mr. Dilke, we should say, is intensely practical. We will not say that he has no sentiment; for the beauty of external nature—most of all on the prairie—seems to touch his soul and fire his blood: but he is no rhapsodist and dreamer. On the James River, where he might have been forgiven for some reference to Pocahontas, he is mainly concerned about the monitors. Looking at the defensive works thrown up along that stream, he is instantly struck with the daring of the monitors in trying to force their way to Richmond. A monitor is, no doubt, a wonderful work of art. This, according to Mr. Dilke, is also the opinion of General Grant, now President of the United States. "General Grant's first words to me at Washington were, 'Glad to meet you. What have you seen?'—'The Capitol.'—'Go at once and see the monitors.' He afterwards said to me, in words that photograph not only the monitors, but Grant, 'You can batter away at those things for a month, and do no good.' No good! We should imagine so; perhaps, also, not much harm. There are actually fourteen words in this reply of the taciturn General, so that it must be one of the longest speeches ever made by the illustrious captain. Mr. Dilke, who had excellent opportunities for judging, thinks that Grant's success as a soldier is due to his mastiff-like tenacity of hold. "I had not been ten minutes in his office at Washington before I saw that the secret of his unvarying success lay in his unflinching determination: there is pith in the American conceit which reads in his initials, 'U. S. G.', 'Unconditional Surrender Grant.'" Grant's name lends itself easily to puns and jokes, especially the phenomenon of Ulysses. Enemies are in the habit of writing this name Useless Grant; and at one moment, when a certain sharp alternation was in everybody's mouth, it was printed in the democratic journals U-lye-ses Grant. The initials U. S. stand for Uncle Sam; and Uncle Sam Grant was a nickname given to him by his fellow-students at West Point. At a later day, after Vicksburg, U. S. G. were made to stand for United States General. The fun of the thing is, that the General is not named Ulysses at all, his real name being Hiram Simpson. By a pure mistake, his first commission was written in the form which he has made so famous, and, the document being signed, the young soldier strove in vain to get official people to correct the blunder.

Mr. Dilke, like many other English visitors in Washington, declined to call on President Johnson at the White House. Of this gentleman's policy the writer has a very low opinion. He speaks of him as the most unteachable of mortal men; and says he really stands in need of the Western editor's excuse, "He must be kinder honest-like, he aise sich a tarnation foolish critter." Mr. Dilke, whose residence in Richmond and the neighbourhood was somewhat prolonged, was not much impressed by what is sometimes called the Muscovite tyranny of the North in Virginia. "The country," he remarks, "is indeed administered by military commanders, but it is not ruled by troops. Before we can give ear to the stories that are afloat in Europe of the 'government of major-generals,' we must believe that five millions of Englishmen, inhabiting a country as large as Europe, are crushed down by some ten thousand men—about as many as are needed to keep order in the single town of Warsaw."

In New York, Mr. Dilke, who is a politician by instinct and by training, devotes himself to a perfect survey of the Irish question, and its issue, Fenianism. In his observations on this topic there is much point as well as much good

sense. We object that America sends us the Fenian pest; but the Yankees, with much fairer reason, object that we send out the Fenian pest to them. Fenianism invades New York from Dublin, in no doubtful way, and with no weakening force. Of that fact no man can doubt. How many Fenians invade Dublin from New York, we know pretty well; and Mountjoy Prison is found big enough to cage the army when it lands. "It is no unfair attack upon the Irish to represent them as somewhat dangerous inhabitants for mighty cities. Of the sixty thousand persons arrested yearly in New York, three-fourths are alien born: two-thirds of these are Irish. Nowhere else in all America are the Celts at present masters of a city government—nowhere is there such corruption. The purity of the government of Melbourne—a city more democratic than New York—proves that the fault does not lie in democracy: it is the universal opinion of Americans that the Irish are alone responsible."

After two or three capital chapters on Cambridge and Michigan Universities, in connexion with the great topic of education in the New World, we get away to the prairies, buffaloes, and red men,—to Denver, Governor Gilpin, gold-miners, teamsters, and Bob Wilson,—to the Black Hills, the Bitter Creek, and the Mormon emigration,—to Salt Lake City, Brigham Young, plurality of wives,—to the Nevada Mountains, Porter Rockwell, gold-miners again,—and so on to San Francisco. Mr. Dilke is a shade less unfavourable to plurality of wives, as he observed this strange domestic feature of Salt Lake City, than some other travellers, who had no better opportunities of judging than himself. On one point he had the advantage, since he visited San Francisco after he left Salt Lake, and was therefore able to gather up some fragments of opinion about the Mormons west of their chief settlement, but in places where they are known. "There is in the Far West," he writes, in a passage pregnant with wise comparison of views, "a fast increasing party, who would leave people to be polygamists, polyandrists, Free-lovers, Shakers, or monogamists, as they please; who would place the social relations as they have placed religion—out of the reach of the law. I need hardly say that public opinion has such overwhelming force in America, that it is probable that even under a system of perfect toleration by law, two forms of the family relation could never be found existing side by side. Polygamists would continue to migrate to Mormon land, Free-lovers to New York, Shakers to New England. Some will find in this a reason for, and some a reason against, a change. In any case, a crusade against Mormonism will hardly draw sympathy from Nebraska, from Michigan, from Kansas." Again he writes, "Many are found who say, 'Leave Mormonism to itself, and it will die.' The Pacific Railroad alone, they think, will kill it. Those Americans who know Utah best are not of this opinion. Mormonism is no superstition of the past. There is huge vitality in the polygamic Church. Emerson once spoke to me of Unitarianism, Buddhism, and Mormonism as three religions which, right or wrong, are full of force. 'The Mormons only need to be persecuted,' said Elder Frederick to me, 'to become as powerful as the Mohammedans.' And he comes at last to the true conclusion, from all the facts of the very curious Mormon story, that the only way is to fight them with moral weapons—to encounter their sermons with sermons and their deeds with deeds."

Will New England be content with such a crusade of thought? It is hard to say.

If the Saints were ordinary Yankees, living an ordinary life, and influenced by ordinary Western motives, New England might expect to put them down in a few years, by sending settlers among them, just as they put down the Sons of the South in Kansas. But Salt Lake valley is a desert—a desert surrounded, at a distance, by some of the richest unoccupied lands on this planet. On the border of Salt Lake a man can cultivate four acres of ground, on the Nebraska forty acres. A New England farmer, therefore, will not move on Salt Lake unless he is paid for it. Who is to pay him? Even if he were paid to go out, it is likely that a powerful body of enthusiasts could be ousted by a small tribe of mercenaries, paid for squatting on his ungrateful soil?

Once on the Pacific slopes, Mr. Dilke began to feel himself restored to civilization and the world. As he remarks, civilization in those parts means—whisky. A city of 10,000 people and 500 grog-shops: such is his brief description of one famous and infamous town. California comes in for long and loving description; the chief point in which, for many readers, will be the very curious and authentic story of the rise in San Francisco—Frisco is the new term—of that strange popular institution, the Vigilance Committee. This committee, as will be found from this story, was an effort of the law-abiding Saxon to put down all outside ruffianism; ruffianism mainly of a foreign type and foreign origin. To get the upper hand, the people had to fight against all the organizations, old and new; including that of the law itself. The occasion was supreme; and we agree with Mr. Dilke in seeing a salutary grace, as well as a saving power, in this decidedly revolutionary movement. Of course, official persons had to see that "the law took its course," even when the legal authorities could do nothing at all. Mr. Brannan, a well-known citizen of San Francisco, in a speech to 5,000 people, said the supreme word—"We, the people, are the mayor, the recorder, and the law." It was not good logic, but it was dreadful fact; and the 5,000 persons who heard him, drew out their revolvers, and became the living law. "The public spirit," says Mr. Dilke, "with which the merchants came forward and gave time and money to the cause of order is worthy of all praise, and the rapidity with which the organization of a new government was carried through is an instance of the singular power of our race for building up the machinery of self-government under conditions the most unpromising. Instead of the events of 1856 having been a case of opposition to law and order, they will stand in history as a remarkable proof of the law-abiding character of a people who vindicated justice by a demonstration of overwhelming force, laid down their arms, and returned in a few weeks to the peaceable routine of business life." The whole story must be read before the full effect of this observation can be felt.

Mr. Dilke finds that California is not American, but English, even in physical type and soundness. The faces are Saxon. The nasal twang of the Atlantic cities is not heard. Even the hatchet face disappears, and the lank New Englander grows fat and rosy in the fine climate of the golden Pacific shores. Of course there is a yellow population. The Chinese, "the Irish of Asia," swarm into California; despised on account of their colour, and condemned on account of their cowardice; but tolerated as servants and inferiors, who eat little, who toil over-much, and save dollars with a mechanical sort of virtue. These Celestials are useful in Frisco, not only for what they bring, but for what they represent elsewhere. "In front of San Francisco are 745 millions of hungry

Asiatics and great Governments reaching hungry magazines whisky. line will between

From to New chapters saw then and then To A second Ceylon a reader in will be as well as by light The final the writ parting

"In A dear race the Eng and Chi stronger the earth the Asia umphant soil not legislation problem dearer r difficult dominion with the such a distinction will go to the dear cheaper umphant ruled by founded even now contain Their su empire large as It is no English the rema intelligent wealth of surpass. but so governed fifty year and Rue Saxon h and in c States al La Plat lib: the countries the futu Japan a cal plain us. No English of being Italy, Sp the side aware o neverthe morally, the sect we are The rise ever, dis and Am Although low of

Asiatics, who have spices to exchange for meat and grain." These words were spoken by Governor Gilpin of Colorado, a man of far-reaching sagacity; and to that vast empire of hungry men, Frisco aims at becoming a glorious magazine of beef, of bread, and perhaps of whisky. The opening of the Pacific railway line will make California the half-way house between London and Peking.

From San Francisco Mr. Dilke passed over to New Zealand, to which he devotes seven chapters; picturing the Maori people as he saw them in their villages and on their farms; and then goes forward to Australia.

To Australia he devotes nearly half his second volume; the other half being given to Ceylon and India. Through these chapters the reader in search of information and amusement will be glad to follow. The information is fresh as well as solid; and the amusement is secured by lightness of touch and curiosity of detail. The final paragraph we extract, in order that the writer may have, as he should have, the parting word:—

"In America we have seen the struggle of the dear races against the cheap—the endeavours of the English to hold their own against the Irish and Chinese. In New Zealand, we found the stronger and more energetic race pushing from the earth the shrewd and laborious descendants of the Asian Malays; in Australia, the English triumphant, and the cheaper races excluded from the soil not by distance merely, but by arbitrary legislation; in India, we saw the solution of the problem of the offerring of the cheaper by the dearer race. Everywhere we have found that the difficulties which impede the progress to universal dominion of the English people lie in the conflict with the cheaper races. The result of our survey is such as to give us reason for the belief that race distinctions will long continue; that miscegenation will go but little way towards blending races; that the dearer are, on the whole, likely to destroy the cheaper peoples, and that Saxondom will rise triumphant from the doubtful struggle. The countries ruled by a race whose very scum and outcasts have founded empires in every portion of the globe, even now consist of 9½ millions of square miles, and contain a population of 300 millions of people. Their surface is five times as great as that of the empire of Darius, and four and a half times as large as the Roman Empire at its greatest extent. It is no exaggeration to say that in power the English countries would be more than a match for the remaining nations of the world, whom in the intelligence of their people and the extent and wealth of their dominions they already considerably surpass. Russia gains ground steadily, we are told, but so do we. If we take maps of the English-governed countries and of the Russian countries of fifty years ago, and compare them with the English and Russian countries of to-day, we find that the Saxon has outstripped the Muscovite in conquest and in colonization. The extensions of the United States alone are equal to all those of Russia. Chili, La Plata, and Peru must eventually become English; the Red Indian race that now occupies these countries cannot stand against our colonists; and the future of the table lands of Africa and that of Japan and of China is as clear. Even in the tropical plains, the negroes alone seem able to withstand us. No possible series of events can prevent the English race itself in 1970 numbering 300 millions of beings—of one national character and one tongue. Italy, Spain, France, Russia become pigmies by the side of such a people. Many who are well aware of the power of the English nations are nevertheless disposed to believe that our own is morally, as well as physically, the least powerful of the sections of the race, or, in other words, that we are overshadowed by America and Australia. The rise to power of our southern colonies is, however, distant, and an alliance between ourselves and America is still one to be made on equal terms. Although we are forced to contemplate the speedy loss of our manufacturing supremacy as coal

becomes cheaper in America and dearer in Old England, we have nevertheless as much to bestow on America as she has to confer on us. The possession of India offers to ourselves that element of vastness of dominion which, in this age, is needed to secure width of thought and nobility of purpose; but to the English race our possession of India, of the coasts of Africa, and of the ports of China offers the possibility of planting free institutions among the dark-skinned races of the world. The ultimate future of any one section of our race, however, is of little moment by the side of its triumph as a whole, but the power of English laws and English principles of government is not merely an English question—its continuance is essential to the freedom of mankind."

Such is the grave moral which our traveller draws from his careful observation of the English-speaking countries of the world.

The Chronicle of Pierre de Langtoft, in French Verse, from the Earliest Period to the Death of King Edward the First. Edited by Thomas Wright. Vol. II. (Longmans & Co.)

It is a pleasant thing to think that the old British gentleman was not altogether a sword and buckler gentleman, or a tosser of flags, or even given to moody meditations upon nothing—except mischief. He was often, we are happy to say, a reading gentleman, or he loved to be read to; and he was especially curious as to what had been done by his forefathers, and what had been said about their doings. He could not, indeed, order a book from a library, but he could sometimes borrow a manuscript. Possessors of manuscripts, however, were not invariably willing to lend them. In such cases, the curious and inquisitive British gentleman, if he were rich enough, ordered a manuscript of history for himself. In the earlier days, he went to the most fashionable Scriptorium, and expressing a desire to have such and such a history, two or three hands were set to work to copy the best they had. In later days, there were lay copiers in towns: but even then the manuscripts were for the most part in the monasteries, so that the monks of the Scriptorium were still at the very head of that particular business. In some such way did Langtoft's Chronicle probably come to life. It consists of reproductions of older chronicles of English history, in French or Anglo-Norman verse, with an account of the reign of Edward the First, by Langtoft himself. This Chronicle deserves the study of historians addicted to diffusiveness. In a few words much action is described, and there is no attempt at reflection, or if there be, it is as briefly made as any of the descriptions, and as rapidly passed from as the author passes from one incident to another.

The most interesting part of the volume is, after all, the Appendix; and of the supplementary matter to be found there, the most important is that which gives Langtoft's account of how King Edward and the English received the claim of Pope Boniface the Eighth to exercise temporal sovereignty over Scotland. The claim is asserted at great length, and Edward's assertion of sovereign right to fealty from Scottish Kings is accounted as worthless. Whoever wrote Edward's reply knew well how to make the most of his master's case. He begins by an assertion that might have spared him the necessity of making those that follow, if the Pope could only have been satisfied with the first, namely, that "the Surveyor of all, with whom nothing is forgotten, certifies the fact, to us and to our people, that we and our ancestors the Kingdom of Albany have always had in word and power, as sovereign lord, without any contradiction." The writer, however, is not content with a plea

that makes his sovereign liege lord over Kings of Scotland by the judgment of "the Surveyor of all": he goes on to show how England acquired the sovereignty here claimed, by conquest, concession or inheritance. If one argument fails, the Pope is welcome to another. If his Holiness makes nothing of Edward's holding his alleged supremacy from the Almighty, he will hardly deny the fact of England being lawfully supreme through the conquest of Albany by King Arthur. If neither Heaven nor King Arthur suffice, the Pope is requested to look at the miraculous dig into the stone at Dunbar, made by the sword of Athelstan, St. John of Beverley giving that king the necessary aid in proof of Athelstan's right to the service of Scottish monarchs.

There is increase of the spirit in the document that follows. This is the message of the Commonalty of England, so-called, though the message is that of "eight earls and twenty-four barons, and fifteen bannerets." It is respectful, but resolute. Rome is told that her chief duty is to exercise equity, and that this noble commonalty of England was "much astonished" at the papal claim to sovereignty in Edward's fief of Scotland. "Thou hast challenged us wrongfully," they cry to the Pope's face, "for thou hast no right, nor no other foreigner!" They are all of one assent, they say, to uphold their king, "that he put in risk neither lordship nor fee, nor before thee, nor other, put in judgment what belongs to his crown so long a time." They scorn all idea of being in any way responsible to Rome for matters temporal. "We will defend him (Edward) as long as our lives last." They describe him as "one of the kings of the world, who most solemnly bears and conducts himself towards God Almighty"; and they suggest that such a monarch is a man for a Pope to be proud of, and one whose interests the Pontiff should especially protect. "If thou be his father such ought to be thy care." In this wise did the Commonalty, or those who spoke for them as well as for themselves, express their opinions to the Pope; and English expression has often been made in the same humour.

Hans Breitmann's Party, with other Ballads.
By Charles G. Leland. (Trübner & Co.)

THE humour of 'Hans Breitmann's Party,' a piece of drollery which has set our American cousins laughing from New York to San Francisco, lies very much in the language. The hero is a bit of true character, and the adventures through which he passes are racy of the soil and of the time. But the oddity of his figure and his fortunes would be lessened in any other medium; the strange grotesqueness of which acts on the nerves as much as on the spirit. The very effort to pronounce this poetry sets one laughing.

In the United States we find many fragments of waning speech. One fragment is the real old Dutch, spoken by early settlers on the Delaware and the Hudson rivers. Then we have the Pennsylvanian German: a language in itself well worthy of more careful notice than it has yet received from men who think of a language as a living thing. Both these idioms have a surface likeness to Hans Breitmann's speech, which is, however, a patois of Anglo-German; the English that of Queen Anne, the German that of Swabia and Bavaria. The chief feature of this speech is the confusion which reigns in the Fatherland south of the Main, as to which is a soft, which is a hard consonant. Of course, the vocabulary is mixed; the names of places and things being mostly English, while the verbs and adjectives are mostly German.

But the confusion of hard and soft is constant. Thus, as the English editor of the poem is good enough to explain, "kiss becomes giss; company—gompny; care—gare; count—gount; corner—gorner; till—dill; terrible—derrible; time—dime; mountain—moundain; thing—ding; through—droo; the—de; themselves—dem-selves; other—oder; party—barty; place—blace; pig—big; priest—breest; piano—biano; plaster—blaster; fine—vine; fighting—vight-ing; fellow—veller. On the other hand, the 'Dutchman' sounds got—cot; green—creen; great—crate; gold dollars—cold dollars; dam—tam; dreadful—treadful; drunk—troonk; brown—prown; blood—plood; bridge—pridge; barrel—parrel; boot—poot; begging—peggin; blackguard—plackguart; rebel—repe; never—nefer; river—rifer; very—fery; give—gife; victory—fictory; evening—efening; revive—refife; jump—shoomp; join—choin; joy—choy; just—shoost; joke—choke." Students who like to watch the changes which our tongue is undergoing in the great West will find a good deal of matter for annotation in 'Hans Breitmann's Party.'

Hans, the hero of these ballads, is a pure German of the South; a Swabian who finds himself on American soil, in new circumstances of glory and of gain. The poem which brings him under notice, 'Hans Breitmann gife a barty,' was printed as a bit of local comedy during the Civil War. It appeared in a newspaper, and was so quickly copied and largely quoted as to induce Mr. Leland to follow it up with many more verses. Hans became a name, if not a power in the land, as familiar to the lips of a Nebraska teamster as to a Boston fine lady.

Hans, we learn, was a real person in the army, whose actual name was Jost; a good Deutscher, who served for pay and plunder in the 15th Regiment of Pennsylvania Cavalry. If the best authorities may be credited in a simple matter, Jost was a man of desperate valour, who never failed to charge home when a dollar could be got by doing so; and who never fought at all unless something could be made by it. One day, we learn from the typical anecdote, Jost was gobbled up by the rebels; and three days after his capture he returned to his own company weighted with gold and other spoil. In fact, Hans was a Bummer.

Now the story of Breitmann as a Bummer is told in one of these ballads, and this specimen of Mr. Leland's humour we shall quote:—

BREITMANN AS A BUMMER.

Der Shen'al Sherman holts oop on his coorse,
He shopts at de gross-road and reins in his horse,
"Dere's a ford on de rifer dis day we moost dake,
Or else de grand army in biees shall peak!"
Ven shoost ash dis vord from his lips had gone bast,
There coomed a young coterly gallop'n' fast,
Who gry mit amazement: "Here Shen'al! Goot Lord!
Dat Bummer der Breitmann ish holdin' der ford!"

Der Shen'al he cotered no hymn und no psalm,
But opened his lips and he priftly say "D—n!
Dere moost hafe been viskey on dat side der rifer;
To get it dose shaps would set hell in a shiver;
But now dat dey hold it, ride quick to deir aid:
Ho Sicksles! move promp'tly, send down a prigade!
Dat Dootchman moost vork mighty hard mit his sword
If aginad a whole army he holds to de ford."

Dey spored on, dey hoory'd on, gallop'n' sh'traight,
But der Breitmann help coomed shoost a liddle too late,
For as de Lauwiné goes amash mit her pound,
So on to de Bummer de repels coom down:
Heinrich von Schinkenstein's tead in de road,
Dietrich Hinkelbein's flat as a toad;
Und Sepperl—Tyroler—shpoke nefer a vord,
But shoost "Mutter Gottes!" und died in de ford.

Itsch'l of Innspruck ish drilled droo de hair,
Elner aus Boeblingen—he too vash dere—
Karli of Karlsruh's shot near de fence,
(His horse vash o'erloadet mit toorkies und hens.)
Und dough he like a ravin dam cannibal fought,
Yet der Breitmann—der cap'n—der hero vash caught;
Und de last dings we saw, he vas tied mit a cord,
For de repels had goppel him oop at de ford.

Dey shtripped off his goat und skygled his poots,
Dey dressed him mit rags of a repel recruit's;

But von gray-haard oldt veller shmiled crimly und bet
Dat Breitmann vouldt pe a pad egg for dem, yet.
"He has more on his pipe as dem vellers allows;
He has cards yet in hand und das Spiel ist nicht aus,
Dey'll find dat dey took in der duyvel to board,
De day dey pooled Breitmann vell ofer de ford."

In de Bowery each bier-haus mit crape vos oodpone,
Ven dey read in de papers dat Breitmann vas gone;
Und de Dootch all cot troonk oopon lager und wein,
At the great Trauer-fest of de Turner Verein.
Dere vas wein-en mit weinen ven beopleah did dink
Dat Sherman's great Sharmann cood nefer more trink
Und in Villiam Shirest vespeln und valten vas hoord,
Pecause der Hans Breitmann vas lost at de ford.

SECOND PART.

In dulce jubilo now ve all sings,
A-vaifin' de paunners like efery dings.
De preeze droo de bine-trees ish cooler und salt,
Und der Shen'al is merry venefer ve halt;
Loosty und merry he schmells at de preeze,
Luutig und heiter he looks droo de drees,
Luutig und heiter ash vell he may pe.

For Sherman, at last, has marched down to the sea!
Dere's a gry from de guart—dere's a clotter und dramp,
Van der fery same tetter ripe dree de camp
Who report on de ford. Dere ish droopies und awe
In de face of de youf' about smodels he saw;
Und he shpeak me in Frentsch, like he always do:
"Look!

Sag're pleu! fentre Tieu!—dere ish Breitmann—his
spook!
He ish coming dis vay! Nom de grice! can it pe
Dat de spooks of de tead men coom down to de sea!"

Und ve looks, und ve sees, und ve trembles mit tread,
For risin' all swart on de efenin' red
Vas Johannes—der Breitmann—der was es, bel Gott!
Coom ridin' to coo-ward, right sh'traight to de shot!
All mouse-still ve sh'tood, yet mit oop-shoompin' hearts,
For he look shoost so pig as de shiant of de Hartz;
Und I heard de Sout Deutschers say "Ave Marie!
Braise Gott all goot shprids py land und py sea!"

Boot Itzig of Frankfurt he lift oop his nose,
Und be-mark dat he shpook hat peen changin' his
clothes,

For he seemed like an Generalissimus drest
In a vlam'n' new coat und magnificent vest.
Six bistols beschlagen mit silber he vore,
Und a cold-mounded sword! like a Kaiser he bore,

Und ve dinks dat de ghosht—or votever he pe—
Moost hafe taken some panks on his vay to de sea.

"Id is he!" "Und er leht noch!" he lifes, ve all say:
"Der Breitmann—Oldt Breitmann!"—Hans Breitmann!
Herr Je!"

Und ve roosh to embrace him, und sh'till more ve find
Dat vherefer he'd peen, he'd left noding behind.
In bofe of his boots dere vas porte-moneys crammed,
Mit creen-packs stoof full all his haversack jammed,
In his bockets cold dollars vere shinglin' deir doons
Mit two dozen vatches und four dozen shpoons,
Und two silver tea-pods for makin' his dea,
Der ghosht hafe pring mit him, en route to de sea.

Mit goot sweed-batatoes, und doorkies, und rice,
He makes him a sooper of eferydings nice.
Und de bummers hont roundt about, alle wie ein,
Dill dey find a plantaschion mit parrels of wein.
Den t'vas "Here's to you, Breitmann! Alt Schwed"—bist
zurück?

Vot tenfels you makes since dis fourteen nights veek?"
Und ve holds von sh'tupendous und derrible shprece
For choy dat der Breitmann has got to de sea.

But in faln tid we ask vhere der Breitmann hat peen,
Vot he did: vot he pass droo—or vot he might seen?
Vhere he kites his vine horse, or who gafe him dem woons,
Und how Brovidence plessed him mit tea-pods und
shpoons?

For to all of dem queries he only rebiles,
"If you asks me no questions, I dells you no lies!"
So 'twos glear dat some derrible mysh'dry moost pe
Vere he kites all dat plondere he prings to de sea.

Dere ish bapers in Richmond dells derrible lies,
How Sherman's grand armee hafe raise deir sooplies:
For ve readt in brindt dat der Shen'al Grant
Say de bummers hafe only shoost take vat dey vant.
But 'tis whispered dat while a refolter 'll go round
Der Breitmann vill nefer a peegin' be found;
Or sh'tarvin' ash brinner by doonder—no he,
Vhile der Teufel cood help him to ged to de sea.

But Breitmann is not only hero, but singer.
One ballad only has yet come from his pen,
and the scenery of that legend is, of course, the
Rhine. This short piece we shall also quote:

A LEGEND OF THE RHINE.

Der noble Ritter Hugo
Von Schwillensauferstein,
Rode out mit speer und helmet,
Und he coom lo de banks of de Rhine.

Und oop dere rose a meer-maid,
Vot hadn't got nodings on,
Und she say, "Oh, Ritter Hugo,
Vhere you goes mit yourself alone?"

And he says, "I ride in de greenwood,
Mit helmet und mit speer,
Till I cooms into ein Gasthaus,
Und dere I trinks some beer."

Und den outspoke de maiden
Vot hadn't got nodings on:
"I tont dink mooch of beopleah
Dat goes mit demsels alone.

You'd petter coom down in de wasser,
Vere dere's a heaps of dings to see,
Und hafe a shplendid timmer
Und drafel along mit me.

Dere you sees de fisch a schwimmin',
Und you catches dem efery one!"—
So sang dis wasser maiden
Vot hadn't got nodings on.

"Dere ish drunks all full mit money
In ships dat vent down of old;
Und you helpsh yourself, by dunder!
To shimmerin' crowns of gold.

Shoost look at dese shpoons und vatches;
Shoost see dese diamant rings!
Coom down und fill your bockets,
Und I'll giss you like efery dings.

Vot you vantsh mit your schnapps und lager?
Coom down into der Rhine!
Der ish pottles der Kaiser Charlemagne
Vonce filled mit gold-red wine!"

Dat fetched him—he sh'tood all shpell pound:
She pooled his coat-tails down,
She drew him conder der wasser,
De maiden mit nodings on.

The English editor of these humorous pieces has added a slight but sufficient vocabulary. Of course some knowledge of German is necessary to a perfect appreciation of the fun, but from the specimens we have given it will be evident that the drollery is of the kind which is easily caught, even when conveyed in a strange idiom.

NEW NOVELS.

Blondel Parva. By the Author of 'Lost Sir Massingberd.' 2 vols. (Bradbury, Evans & Co.)

WHAT many novelists accomplish by the knife or the poisoned chalice, the author of 'Lost Sir Massingberd' achieves by immersion in cold water; and when he has disposed of a principal actor by drowning him, he is very clever in raising him from his watery grave after a lapse of many years, under circumstances that render his re-appearance no less humiliating than perplexing to the comrades of his former days, who during the interval between his death and resurrection have been acting under the impression that he would never again trouble them in this life. It was thus that Lady Lisgard, the prime heroine of 'Mirk Abbey,'—an earlier tale by the same writer,—came into possession of the appalling secret which, with more resolute-ness than honesty, she withheld from her neighbours. Having lost her first husband in a storm at sea, in a manner that gave her ample grounds for believing herself a widow, Lucy Gaveston contracted a second marriage with Sir Robert Lisgard, of Mirk Abbey, and after a long period of prosperous existence, was horrified by the re-appearance of her first husband, who had no need to demonstrate to her by words that she had unintentionally committed bigamy, and that the children whom she had brought the late Sir Robert Lisgard were illegitimate, and consequently without any valid title to the estates and dignity of the deceased baronet. In the face of these hideous facts, taking a course which the revolting incidents of her temptation by no means justified, though her husband's opportune death rendered it practicable, she kept her own counsel to every one except her historian, and on quitting the scenes of her earthly tribulation left her eldest son in possession of the Lisgard baronetcy to the injury of her idolized Sir Robert's heir-at-law. In 'Blondel Parva' the same machinery of an imagined death by drowning and the subsequent production of the person supposed to be drowned, is employed for the discomfiture of Mrs. Irby, whose part in the story bears a strong resemblance to Lady Lisgard's part in the earlier narrative. The wife of a country gentle-

man, Mrs. Irby has a little ten-years-old girl, when the sudden disappearance of her husband induces her to believe herself a widow. "Ten years ago," says the author, recording Kate Irby's bereavement with no wearisome enumeration of the details of the calamity, "when she was a child of ten, her father had been drowned while bathing in that dangerous stream one summer morning. His body, carried out to sea by the fierce current, had never been recovered. It was denied to wife and child to know where his bones lay whitening; they only know that somewhere in 'that vast and wandering grave, they tossed with tangle and with shell.'" Having thus put Robert Irby, country squire and ruined gamester, out of the way for a season, the historian proceeds to tell how Mrs. Irby carried on life in the manor-house of Blondel Parva during the protracted term of her imaginary widowhood. Having assumed the cumbrous cap and gloomy dress appropriate to her condition, she gave notice of her husband's death to three insurance-offices in which he had effected policies on his life, and requested that their directors would forthwith pay to her the sums for which her lamented husband had insured his life. Whether in making these applications the lady acted on the authority of letters of administration or a will, the author omits to state; but we gather from his deposition that the demands were no sooner made than the actuaries of the three offices, with chivalric obligingness to the distressed lady, paid to her the sums, amounting in all to 15,000*l.*, in consideration of a death which could not be demonstrated by the proofs that life-insurance agents invariably require before they part with their money to the representatives of deceased insurers. How this came about, it would be vain to inquire; but for the sake of curious and matter-of-fact readers, we wish we could state the grounds upon which the three actuaries concluded that their missing client was as dead as Mrs. Irby believed him to be. Anyhow, the money, in three sums of 5,000*l.* each, was paid over to Mrs. Irby, who was thereby preserved from the indigence that would otherwise have fallen upon her, and so was enabled to maintain something of her old appearance of substantial dignity at the manor-house, where she and her child continued to dwell for the next ten years in an enviable degree of contentment, "hard by the river Start, whose blood-red current ran by like a mill-race." And so they would have continued to live for some time longer, spending the principal as well as the interest of their 15,000*l.* had not Robert Irby had the exceeding bad taste to re-appear, after the lapse of a decade, in the form and guise of an extremely dilapidated mendicant.

The most astounding parts of the novel are those which set forth the consequences of Robert Irby's re-appearance, and were penned under the impression that by the law of England persons "found missing" are, upon their apprehension and conviction by a jury of their peers, punishable with penal servitude for life. Robert Irby, be it remembered, was guilty of no offence against the laws of his country, except the crime of wilfully absenting himself from his family under circumstances which led them to infer that he had met his death by drowning. Misled by the incidents of his disappearance Robert Irby's wife, acting in perfect good faith, claimed the money due at his death upon certain policies from certain men of business, who, also misled by insufficient evidence of the supposed death, consented to her demands. Like the recently notorious Mr. Speke, the squire of Blondel Parva had been a "missing man"; and during his mysterious absence certain foolish but well-meaning persons, after

arriving at an erroneous decision respecting his fate, had paid over to an honest gentlewoman certain sums of money which they ought to have retained in their possession. Mrs. Irby made no fraudulent representations to the insurance-offices; Mr. Irby gave no testimony of any kind to the unwise actuaries. Had the missing man given evidence of his own death, after the fashion of the rogue who not long since attempted to defraud an insurance-office by playing the part of his own executor and testifying to the interment of his own body in a London cemetery, he would, of course, have perpetrated a heinous offence, and exposed himself to the risk of heavy and degrading punishment. But no such crime is chargeable upon the man, who merely went away from home and was "missing" for ten years. And yet the author gravely tells us that on reappearing in England Robert Irby was liable to "penal servitude for life." In A's absence, B. and C. acted imprudently at the suggestion of D, whose action was no consequence of A's instructions; therefore A. is legally accountable for what has been done in his absence by the said B, C, and D, and may be prosecuted for the crime—of not being in the way when he was wanted. This is the whole case against Robert Irby. The later parts of the story record how the police were put on the missing man's track; how the insurance-offices strove to apprehend him; how, to escape his pursuers, he made a feint of starting for Australia in a sailing-vessel; how a fast steamer was sent in pursuit of this sailing-vessel, and caught her,—just as the swift screw steamer overtook the slow ship in which Müller the German murderer crossed the Atlantic; and how the missing man eventually gave his relentless hunters the slip for ever by dying at the very moment when the police discovered his place of concealment in a Clapham lodging. "Where is he?" asked a voice in angry tones, "runs the narrative of the missing man's escape. "He is here, Richard Audley," answered Maurice sternly. "I hold a warrant for your apprehension, Mr. Irby," said a tall grave man, following close upon Sir Richard's heels. Maurice pointed to the bed. Another warrant had gone forth beforehand, whose jurisdiction extends over the whole world; and a hand stronger than that of the law was laid upon him it sought. It was not King Pyrrhus that had conquered, but King Death. Robert Irby was a dead man. "I arrest the body," said the inspector in formal tones, and accordingly he took possession." How fortunate for Mr. Speke that he was caught and restored to the bosom of his family before any executor proved his will and gathered money from his creditors! Even as it is, we are inclined to think that the author of 'Blondel Parva' is not unlikely to institute criminal proceedings against him for allowing his friends to think that he was dead.

Brothers-in-Law. 3 vols. (Hurst & Blackett.)

REGARDED from one point of view, 'Brothers-in-Law' may be described as belonging to the numerous class of tales in each of which virtue and vice have a sharp tussle that ends in the defeat of the latter, after the former has endured for a season the trials of calumny and misconception. But, though it is of so old-fashioned and familiar a kind that no habitual novel-reader will derive a new excitement from its pages, or experience any vivid sense of relief when the concluding chapters of the third volume present him with an ending foreseen at an early point of the narrative, the author accomplishes her task with more than average literary skill, and leaves us with the impression that her first essay in romantic fiction is no

adequate expression of her capacity, and that it will probably be followed by stronger achievements in the same department of artistic endeavour. By making her hero and villain brothers-in-law and commercial partners, she has imparted a certain newness to old positions, and given to the somewhat languid narrative an interest which it would not have possessed had the two principal actors been less intimately connected. Strengthening for evil the hands of Walter Harewood, whilst it diminishes proportionately Horace Vane's power to control his unprincipled partner, this domestic relationship is largely instrumental in bringing about a complication of perils and difficulties, from which Horace sees no better way of liberating himself than one which he clearly was not justified in taking. On ascertaining his brother-in-law's evil practices, it is beyond question that he ought to have communicated the painful discovery to his father-in-law, who, besides being his father-in-law, was his benefactor and coadjutor in business. As an honest man, representing the interests of virtue in a moral drama, he was, moreover, bound to take, at any risk of annoyance or calamity, such measures as would have deprived Walter of the power to inflict injury on innocent persons by persevering in his course of criminal machination. Had the considerations which decided his conduct been tenfold stronger, they would not have justified his reticence, which, fruitful though it was of disaster to himself, proved no less hurtful to several other people whom it was his paramount duty to protect from the operations of a reckless gambler and forger. Horace, however, takes another view of his obligations, and merely withdraws from all intercourse with his brother-in-law, whom he thus leaves at liberty to follow out his career to its inevitable result, and to bring ruin on their wives' father. By seceding from the firm of Curtis, Harewood & Vane, Horace merely took the course of prudence, since he could not have remained in the partnership without becoming a direct participator in Walter's nefarious transactions. That his retirement was attended with many inconveniences and hardships to himself, such as his expulsion from his father-in-law's domestic circle and his instant exposure to humiliating poverty, in no way justifies the author for commending it as an heroic course. He withdrew from the firm mainly to save his own reputation; and, whilst thus taking care of himself, he left his wife's nearest relatives at the mercy of the man who ruined them; whereas by a prompt and courageous exposure of the fellow's rascally doings he would have saved Mr. Curtis's family from the extreme degradation which speedily befell them, and would, moreover, have kept his honour free from the sin of conniving at a culprit's misdeeds. Though his silence fell short of making him, according to law, the accomplice of his brother-in-law's crimes, he unquestionably incurred the grave guilt of an agent who, forewarned that an odious violation of the law is about to be attempted, takes no steps to prevent its commission. But, though he cannot be held otherwise than blameworthy for the course which he took from a mistaken sense of honour, Horace Vane behaves so manfully in all his subsequent trials that we part with him on almost as good terms as we should have done had he acted with sounder judgment and finer spirit in the great crisis of his early manhood. As we have already intimated, the story eventually satisfies the requirements of justice by allowing virtue to take the wall with firm step and unabashed front, whilst vice is tripped up and thrown into the kennel. In places, the book is decidedly superior to the

average of first attempts in romantic art, and it will be spoken of favourably by readers who prefer tales of domestic interest to narratives of revolting incidents and improbable adventures. Honest labour has been expended on its production; and the qualities of a thoughtful and cultivated mind are discernible in its delineations of character and social descriptions.

A Memoir of the Right Honourable Hugh Elliot. By the Countess of Minto. (Edinburgh, Edmonston & Douglas.)

THE Elliot family may be said to belong to those Scottish houses the greatness of which has been accomplished by much labour and some luck on the part of the members. Of no exalted lineage, they have ennobled the line for their heirs. The first "*Lord Minto*" was only so by custom and courtesy. Gilbert Elliot, the lawyer, assumed that title as Lord of Session when he became a judge. He died a baronet. His son and successor followed him in this course and these dignities, and the eldest son of this last gentleman was the father of a numerous family, of which the two eldest sons were Gilbert and Hugh, men of mark in their day as ambassadors and Indian governors. Their services were acknowledged by the raising of Gilbert to the dignity, first of baron, then of earl. The title of Lord Minto was thenceforward no longer an honorary dignity. Hugh Elliot married a Prussian lady. The marriage was an unhappy one. A second union was of an exactly opposite character. Ten children were born of this second marriage, including the present eminent Dean of Bristol, and Lady Hislop, mother of Lady Minto, the clever and agreeable biographer of her grandfather, Hugh.

This work, which was originally printed only for private circulation, is creditable to the zeal, taste, and judgment of this lady. Out of mountains of documents, she has known what to take and what to leave. Lady Minto has rightly left much untouched; she has cleverly compressed large portions of the papers into small space, indicated the spirit of others by quoting an expressive line or two, and has produced in a single volume a pleasant picture of her grandsire and of the times in which he lived. In the occasional comments and reflexions superadded to the narrative there is a genial humour, an honest earnestness, and a thorough good sense, which are as likely to find favour with the reader as any part of the biography. In short, the Countess has done her work in excellent style and spirit, and we congratulate her on the literary rank to which this volume will raise her.

Hugh Elliot was born in 1752, and at ten years of age he was presented with a lieutenant's commission in the army, and had for private tutor the future Sir Robert Liston (our ambassador at Madrid and at Constantinople), at a Scotch preceptor's salary of 25*l.* a year, with "bed, board, and washing." In 1764, Hugh was in Paris, at the military school of the terrible Abbé Choquet, a French Squeers for French pupils, of whom Mirabeau was one. "From year's end to year's end no one inquired for them." Thence Hugh Elliot and his brother Gilbert passed to Edinburgh, and, later, to Oxford. At the English University Dr. Markham allowed that "mathematics and those kind of things were necessary for a gentleman," but he held that statesmen were made by study of the classics and history. There were a few studious men then at Oxford, but the majority were idlers, and not a few were fools. Chief of these last was Lord Frederick Stewart, who talked, in the coffee-houses, of his father Lord

Bute's "intrigue with the Princess of Wales." The wise, the idle and the foolish, however, were all convinced that Oxford was at the head of the universe. In 1770, the brothers Elliot were again in Paris. David Hume looked after them a little; gay society opened its doors to them. Among the celebrities there encountered was Walpole, and "Mr. Walpole," writes Hugh, "seems to be as dry and cold a kind of gentleman as ever I saw." The brothers lived modestly enough at the Hotel de Londres, Rue Dauphine, at 5*l.* a month; but the best houses in Paris were open to them, even "the Temple, the French Fleet Prison," where the old Abbé Choquet was in duance for debt, and whither Hugh did not go. "I would go to him there," he writes, "if it was not such an immense way off, and that there is no standing the stench of his room when you are once in it." Then came the *grand tour*, which was somewhat marred by Hugh's commission not being ratified. The abuse of making officers of children, in order that all the years before they joined might be reckoned as years of service, had made even ministers ashamed. They, however, allowed Hugh to wear the name of "Captain," as he was going to Austria, where no officer of lower rank was ever received into society. At Warsaw he saw old Poland falling into ruins, amid awful dissipation at Court, where the insolent Russian envoy, Stachelberg, himself seated, would make a sign to the last of Polish kings to do the same. Dissipation was not confined to Warsaw. Sin earned high wages at Vienna. The day before the Emperor Francis died he gave a bond on the treasury for 20,000 francs to his mistress, and his widow, Maria Theresa, allowed the lady to receive the amount. Morals and an easy philosophy were of much the same sort under the Emperor Joseph. But the young military student turned away from vain delights to learn the art of war. He distinguished himself so brilliantly during what may be called a visit to the Russian army, then actively engaged near Silistria, that when he suddenly entered "the foreign minister line" his Russian comrades were lost in astonishment, and Col. Petersohn declared that after that, he did not despair of seeing the Pope turn hussar! For the modest salary of 3*l.* a day, Hugh Elliot began diplomacy as English minister at the Electoral Court of Bavaria. At that time there were no *attachés* or secretaries in the suite of such ministers. Elliot's predecessor simply kept a German boy, who could speak no other language, to literally *copy* his letters. Hugh Elliot had his old tutor, Liston, with him as *private* secretary, and Liston kept himself, as well as his patron, so well before the Government at home, that they began to consider him as a regular diplomatist, and ended by paying him in that character. Most foreign courts then aped Versailles, and that of Munich was no exception. The people starved, the princes danced. The women threw themselves into the young minister's arms, but he did not value the compliment. People of sense lost it in looking for the philosopher's stone, and a Herr Gasner, under episcopal patronage, drove devils out of the poorer sort of Bavarian people. The Countess believes that the devils passed into the bodies of the higher classes. Perhaps it was by way of exorcism that Elliot occasionally made the whole electoral family drunk with strong punch. His popularity among the maids of honour is illustrated by their sending to the tailor for his old coat and dividing the velvet and gold embroidery among them. One of these damsels, with whom he changed letters, laughs at a German princess dying of dropsy, as the writer says, because she was too much of a prude to let a doctor see her legs. "Oh, ye Gods!" ex-

claims this lively maid of honour, "where will modesty take refuge next?" In contrast with such "fair," take this picture of the "brave." A great impression, Lady Minto tells us, was made on Elliot and other young Englishmen at the sight of so many of their Roman Catholic countrymen serving in foreign armies. They could not hold commissions in their own. "Four hundred English officers belonging to the Austrian army had been presented, in one day, to the Duke of Gloucester, then travelling abroad. Many of these brave men were affected to tears."

Hugh Elliot's second mission was to Berlin, whither he went in 1777. It was eventful in every respect; marked by strange contests with everybody, including the King,—and by the ambassador's marriage and separation, and his duel with a cowardly rascal, Baron Kniphausen, the seducer of Elliot's wife. How plain-spoken envoys were tutored by ministers at home may be seen in a sentence of a letter addressed by Lord Suffolk to Elliot:—"Let me give you one official caution. Recollect always that your letters are for the royal eye, which is so constructed as to be shocked at any coarse expression. You lately said that a certain prince would do anything to '*get a shilling*.' I altered the three last words to '*gain an advantage for his people*.'" Elliot's fingers were also gently rapped on the ground of his being a little too plain-spoken at Berlin, where, as he said, he "found Nature buried in sand and mankind in slavery." Old Frederick was, in the envoy's eyes, anything but an idol. "If I had a fleet," cried vaunting old Fritz, "I would sweep the winds from the seas." This was said in allusion to old admirals, who went into port during winter. Curiously enough, this foolish boast pleased Elliot's uncle, an English sea-captain. "I wish to God," wrote the latter, "he would come here, and command our fleet. I think we should bethe better, too, if he had the command of both our Houses of Parliament; for our d—d boasted constitution will sink us to the bottom of H—!" Fritz sent an ill-conditioned fellow (Count Leuzi) to London, as his ambassador, merely to "spite the English Cabinet." "What do they say of him in London?" asked Frederick tauntingly of Elliot, who answered, bowing to the very ground the while, "They say that he perfectly represents your Majesty." Fritz probably thought his turn for triumph was come when Hyder Ali was giving us so much trouble in the East. "Mr. Elliot," said the King, "who is this Hyder Ali, whose thoroughly understands how to manage his affairs in India?" Elliot was equal to the occasion. "Sire," he replied, "he is an old despot, who has continually plundered his neighbours; but who, God be thanked, now begins to dribble nonsense." Elliot thought the devil might have envied him that revenge; but he had a greater triumph still, when Fritz subsequently sneered at the religious tone of Cooté's announcement of his victory over the redoubtable Hyder. "I did not know," said the King, "that Providence was one of your allies." "And, sir," rejoined Elliot, "he is the only one we haven't to pay." Lady Minto claims this celebrated reply for her grandfather, affirming that it has been erroneously attributed to another English envoy, Mitchell. Elliot was as ready with hand as with tongue, and sometimes both went together. When France acknowledged the independence of America, a vulgar Frenchman at Berlin thrust his face in that of the English minister, and said, "Ah! Ah! That's a famous smack in the face which France has given to England." "And which England returns by my hand," said Elliot, accompanying the words with a stinging box on the ear, which the rude

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Frenchman seems to have taken submissively. With all this, Elliot was undoubtedly popular, even with the royal family, and hardly excepting the King, whose own practical jokes did not excite the envoy's admiration.

The ambassador was not sorry when he was recalled from Berlin. He did not relish being removed, as he was, by Fox, whom Elliot's mother had depicted to her son as a man whose ruinous profligacy had compelled him to look to party for subsistence. "I have been humiliated," said the ex-envoy, "by the demigod of the blackguards." The removal, however, might be justified. Fox promised to provide elsewhere for Elliot; but the Ministry went out, and it was Lord Grantham who notified to Elliot, in 1782, his appointment to the mission at Copenhagen.

The spirit, courage, and discretion of our minister contributed to the establishment and preservation of the neutrality of Denmark in the war between Sweden and Russia. The French ambassador once thought to humiliate him by calling on him with Paul Jones, "chef d'escadre." Elliot looked grimly at the cards which the visitors left, and refused to return the ambassador's call, made in such company.

In 1790 he returned to England. After a mission to Paris, in the following year, he went, in 1792, to Saxony, where he represented England till 1802. In the course of the details respecting this last mission, Lady Minto records the marriage of Hugh Elliot with a certain Margaret, "a beautiful girl of humble birth, but whose personal qualities justified his choice." Of this marriage, there are several surviving children; Gilbert, now Dean of Bristol, was the first son, we think, born at the Embassy "in the purple." The children had their mother's beauty, and Hugh had no reason to regret the match which some of his great friends thought a *malalliance*. In 1803, Elliot ("at twenty-four hours' notice") was with Nelson, in the Victory, bound for Naples. The troubled story of that kingdom, and how Elliot struggled to save it from destruction by the French, are excellently given. The Queen herself, with all her faults and frailties, was a thousand times more heroic than her husband. She had more wit, but less power of control, than her sister, Marie Antoinette. When Alquier presented his credentials as ambassador from Napoleon, she well remembered that he had been a fierce Republican, and had voted for the death of Louis the Sixteenth. In her addresses to this envoy she loved to make the ex-Jacobin wince by giving emphasis to the words, "The Emperor, your master!" For her royal husband there is nothing but contempt. When Elliot persuaded him to take refuge from the French in Messina, we are told that, "in some safe place, he watched the artillery practice from the opposite shores, clapping his hands with glee when a shot struck some miserable vessel hugging the coast, and apparently perfectly unmindful of the fact that such boats, on either side of the strait, were manned by his own subjects and countrymen."

After Sicily, Elliot went out as Governor of the Leeward Islands. At that time the planters had rendered their name execrable throughout the civilized world for atrocious cruelty towards their slaves. To murder them in cold blood was a common occurrence, for which punishment was hardly possible. Hugh Elliot, however, caught an infamous offender in this way; had him tried, and after conviction, to escape which was impossible, though the culprit little dreamed of further unpleasant consequences, Elliot hanged him. "Thus perished," the Governor wrote his wife, "a man born to affluence, connected

with families of distinction in England. He has left several children. . . His manners and address were those of a gentleman. Think of a young family deprived, in one fatal moment, of their only surviving parent, and think of the struggle it must have cost me to do my duty upon so trying an occasion." His whole conduct in the Leeward Islands well earned for him the appointment he received, in 1814, as Governor of Madras. He passed on the ocean, without seeing him, his elder brother, who was on his return from the Governor-Generalship of India; and the two brothers never met afterwards. It was when Hugh Elliot was on his way homeward, in 1820, that he stayed for a short time at St. Helena. The French about the "illustrious captive" could not tempt him into paying Bonaparte the homage of a visit. He could not so soon forget that Napoleon had been "the greatest enemy his country had ever had, and a curse to Europe; and, for his own part, he had no desire to see him." Elliot died in 1830. He had seen, in France, the Revolution of 1789, and the overthrow of the Bourbons in the year in which he died. He remembered the funeral of George the Second, and he saw the accession of William the Fourth.

But the details of Hugh Elliot's public and private life do not constitute the sole nor even the chief charm of Lady Minto's volume. It is in the illustration of social and family life that most readers will probably take the greatest interest. We are there with young couples in a Ranelagh box, "eating bread and butter and making love in a regular way." We are made to wonder at a young lady's mirth as we read, "Miss North, merry as ever, bids me tell you she is very much in love with one person and going to marry another." We cannot, on the other hand, but sympathize with honest Bob Elliot, the country parson. "Poor Bob," writes his sister, Mrs. Eden, afterwards Lady Auckland, "Poor Bob has a rage for matrimony, and offers himself so suddenly to every young woman that they are quite frightened, and scream No!" Lady Minto refers to an early little romance of this Eleanor Eden, when she was Eleanor Elliot, "which ended very tragically by the death of the hero, young Delaval, the only son of the Delavals." Of another romance of another Eleanor, the daughter of the former, Lady Minto takes no notice; and yet it is now known that she was the only woman who touched the heart of Pitt, and that there was once a prospect of their making a match of it!

We close the volume with a higher estimate of Hugh Elliot's character than any we had formed from the reports of diarists, who expatiate on the brilliancy of his conversation, the variety of his talents, and the sparkling vivacity of his wit. He was an able minister, and a thoroughly honest man. He might have said with Mirabeau, "Ma tête aussi est une puissance," but his sons who yet survive may be justified in having as much pride in the purity of his heart as in the qualities of his head. Let us add, that the Appendix contains an autobiographical sketch of Mirabeau, which affords a better idea of the man (who turns up in this volume in France, and next in Holborn, "writing for his bread,") than can be easily acquired in the numerous *tombs* in which he is depicted by other hands.

Sport and its Pleasures, Physical and Gastronomical. By the Author of 'Highland Sports.' (Mitchell & Co.)

THE author of this light volume about the pleasures of the chase and the table is so agreeable a companion in print that we should like to join

him for a day on the moors, or ascertain over a *tête-à-tête* dinner whether he is as jolly a fellow as he professes to be. Any fare is acceptable to him so long as it is good of its kind. A prince, he avers, may derive princely enjoyment from a repast of "two or three mutton chops, a mealy potato, and a pint of bitter ale," but then the mutton and beer must be of the best quality, and the potatoes should "boil like a ball of flour,"—in the moral of which statement we cordially concur, though we never before heard that potatoes and balls of flour can be made to boil. To boil potatoes is a familiar operation; but the next time our scribe sees an ebullient potato, we should like to be spectators with him of so singular a phenomenon. Many a man's information is better than his English; and the contents of the author's rollicking little treatise incline us to think that his English is his weakest point. Having paid proper respect to counsel given long since by the venerable Mrs. Glasse, and first caught his hare, he tells us how the creature may be cooked, with results that give the lie to James Blow, formerly of Belfast, who, in the year of Our Lord 1714, observed of the hare, "Her flesh is venison, but of very little value; for, being naturally so fearful, she is never fat." To which statement the author says what is tantamount to "You be blowed," and gives us some excellent receipts for dishes of hare. If James Blow was a fair representative of the gastronomic art of his time, cookery must have made rapid strides immediately he was blown out; for just twenty years after the publication of his libel on poor puss we find mankind in possession of the following receipt, which emits a savoury steam, grateful to nostrils and palate: "To Stew a Hare for the Rich, 1734.—Pull your hare to pieces, and bruise the bones. Put it into a stew-pan with three pints of strong broth. At the same time put in an onion and a faggot of sweet herbs. Let it stew leisurely for four hours; then put in a pint of good claret; let it stew for two or three hours longer; take out what bones you can find with the herbs and onions, if not dissolved (query: If dissolved, how could they be found?); put in an anchovy or two with the claret; shake it up with half a pound of butter when ready for the table." Of the same date is the following receipt for "A Hare Pie.—Bone a hare and shred the meat small; take almost the same weight in fresh beef suet, shred also. Pound both in a mortar till perfectly mixed. Add salt, two small nutmegs, their weight in cloves, and mace ditto, and a little fine pepper; let those spices give full aroma to the meat by careful mixing; put into a crust and bake it." In his prefatory remarks on the ways in which hares may be caught, napping or otherwise, the gastronomic sportsman says, "I will conclude this chapter by one of my friend Blaze's hare chases, as he terms it—certainly one of the most extraordinary in the memory of man: Four hundred thousand men, French and Austrians, composed the field. The meet was at a village called Wagram, a few leagues from Vienna. The plain was alive with hares; at every ten yards one was on its legs. Our guns and cannon caused them great alarm, and they naturally fled by scores before us to save themselves. In their flight, however, they met with two hundred thousand Austrians, who turned them towards the French again; and thus the poor timid creatures were in consternation between the two armies. A charge of cavalry, in no manner made on their account, put them to the rout. They pierced the ranks, passed between our legs, and were killed by dozens and taken alive. Alas! that day we beheld a butchery of men and hares. Never were so many seen, never were so many killed. That

night, after the battle, conquerors and conquered supped together on jugged hare." The motto for M. Blaze's strange story should be—"Blaze away." The narrator omits to state that the nobler and more ambitious of the hares, who retained any presence of mind under the terrifying cross-fire, on finding escape impossible, made towards the French lines, preferring to die in that part of the battle-field, where a fine instinct taught them that their bodies would fall into the hands of superior cooks and receive all the honour due to hares who, instead of running away, had perished on the field of battle.

A Political and Military History of the Hanoverian and Italian War. With Maps and Plans. By Capt. W. J. Wyatt (unattached), formerly of the Radetsky Hussars. (Stanford.)

THE campaigns of 1866 in Hanover and in Italy, like that on the Main, were eclipsed by the campaign in Bohemia. While the world was holding its breath in expectation of the desperate struggle between the chief armies of the two great powers, there was small interest taken in all minor events. Even the battle of Custoza shrank into insignificance; for, the very day before it was fought, the army of Prince Frederick Charles and the army of the Elbe had crossed the Austrian frontier. Capt. Wyatt has therefore rather a thankless task in endeavouring to excite a posthumous interest in events which failed to draw attention at the very time of their occurrence. And, if the truth must be told, he is not very likely to succeed in his efforts; for he has not got that happy knack of garnishing a dry subject with scraps of literary seasoning, which enables some men to attract with even the dullest theme. One would think that there can be no subject so easily worked into an interesting form as the history of a war, be it great or small. The merest skirmish is full of incident; the march is alive with motion; the battlefield is teeming with excitement. And yet to some minds they appear to present a mere labyrinth of details, in which one can with difficulty find a clue to the main events. Of such details Capt. Wyatt's book is so full that it is almost impossible to read it through as a connected history. One may pick out bits here and there, or the ardent student of details may note the name and position of every brigade, battalion, and company; but for this most readers have neither time nor inclination. Read in detached portions, the book is incoherent; read straight through, it is dull. Nor is its study enlivened by such remarkable pieces of English as this, the concluding paragraph of a letter from the King of Prussia, ordering General Falkenstein to "put the Hanoverian troops out of activity,"—written on the day the Prussian Government asked the Hanoverians to allow Manteuffel's troops to pass through Hanover:—"You have, the case happening, to part in your operations from the point of view that your troops will be required as soon as possible upon another scene of the war."

Need we say that Capt. Wyatt, late of the Radetsky Hussars, is heart and soul an Austrian, and a good downright hater of the Prussians? His object is to show Prussia deceitful, arrogant, bullying; Hanover unfortunate, deceived, but having "saved her honour without stain or blemish, and with it and through it, the hope and the confidence of a not distant resurrection." He thus sums up the present political situation of the Continent:—

"The principle of legitimacy is gone; the leading Power of the North German Confederation has blotted out the foundation of German public right.

When Prussia, by force of arms, took possession of Hanover, Electoral Hesse, &c., she thereby declared that the sword alone should henceforth be the chief arbiter in all questions of public right in Germany. The solidarity of the possessions of legitimacy is annihilated for ever—Fidelity is now regarded as high treason. The hitherto unquestioned right of succession is annulled, for Prussia has trampled it under foot in Schleswig-Holstein. The principle of nationality on one hand, and the right of self-government on the other, are striving for supremacy, and Prussia, which pretends to represent the principle of nationalities, violates it in Posen and denies the North-Schleswigers the *plébiscite* stipulated in the Treaty of Prague. 'Might,' therefore, at present holds the helms of the European state vessels. * * In the annexed countries the discontent and animosity are, at the time we write, just as strong and bitter as on the day when the conqueror invaded their borders, a condition of affairs which can be proved by many undeniable facts. Prussia has certainly succeeded in subduing Germany north of the Main, but has failed signally in attaching her new subjects to a rule which they denounce as an anathema. The Germans, south of the Main, have been compelled to buy peace by a contribution of fifty millions of thalers, and the secret offensive and defensive treaties of alliance of which so much has been heard. South Germany has accepted the Customs Parliament only for the sake of her material interests; but, beyond that, the people will have nothing further to do with Prussia in the sense of a closer connexion. * * In order to cloak over the political *fiasco* of the Prussian policy in the Customs Parliament, the 'dodge' has been tried to win over the South German deputies by a series of festivities, at which champagne was to have acted the principal part in melting the frigidity which they had hitherto maintained. Indeed, this manoeuvre formed no bad counterpart of the famous champagne feast of the Emperor Louis Napoleon. Even Count Bismark 'toasted' the 'South German brethren.' But the honest Germans remembered at that moment, with sad misgivings, the thousands whose bones were lying bleaching and mouldering to dust on the battle-fields of 1866,—the millions which the 'South German brethren' had to contribute to the Prussian exchequer, the sums which were exacted from Frankfurt and other places; and they recollected, with a shudder, how that same Bismark, on entering the ministry in 1861, coolly gave out as his watchword—'Blood and Iron,' and prepared from that time forward the complications which terminated on the 16th June, 1866, in a bloody and fratricidal war in Germany."

A cheerful picture certainly, and arguing ill for Capt. Wyatt's digestive organs!

The Philippine Islands, Moluccas, Siam, Cambodia, Japan and China, at the Close of the Sixteenth Century. By Antonio de Morga. Translated from the Spanish, with Notes and a Preface, by the Hon. Henry E. J. Stanley. (Printed for the Hakluyt Society.)

As a general rule, the publications of the Hakluyt Society are more instructive than entertaining. We are indebted to Mr. Stanley for a very pleasant exception to this rule in the book before us. The whole story of the conquest of the Philippine Islands, the successes and disasters of the first Spanish governors and their transactions with Japan and Cambodia form a wondrous romance of real life. Antonio de Morga, with all his merits as an historian, sound lawyer and gallant soldier, would perhaps have had, notwithstanding the interesting character of this tale he relates, few or no English readers but for this translation. We may now hope that a large portion of the public will, thanks to Mr. Stanley, learn something of the history of dependencies on which Spain can best found her fame as a colonizing power, and where she has more to

boast of, and less to reproach herself for, than in any other part of the world.

It was in 1564 that Don Miguel Lopez de Legazpi, an inhabitant of Mexico and a native of the province of Guipuzcoa, sailed from the port of Navidad with five ships and 500 men, with orders to reduce the Luzon islanders to obedience and oblige them to accept "the holy Catholic faith." He anchored first in a port of Sebu, and at once effected the conquest of that island. On the 19th of May, 1571, his master of the camp, Martin de Goiti, took the town of Manila by storm, on which the submission of a great part of the people of Luzon soon followed. Legazpi died in 1574, having added the conquest of the island of Mindoro to that of Luzon and Sebu, and leaving the empire of Spain in the Philippines so firmly established that all the efforts of Chinese, Malay and Dutch corsairs could not shake it, though they often committed sad ravages. The greatest dangers of all, however, that the Spaniards in Manila ever encountered were from the Chinese immigrants, who, when they had increased to the number of 30,000, displayed the usual treachery, cruelty and insubordination of their race. In 1603 they were all but successful in a revolt which they commenced with vigour equal to the secrecy with which they had planned it. They cut to pieces Don Luys Dasmariñas with 140 men of the best of the hacbutteers, and obtained so many other successes that the Spaniards, who numbered only 700 at the outbreak, were in imminent danger when they were saved by the arrival of Don Luys de Velasco, who came from Pintados with succours. In the end the Chinese were put to the sword, all but 200 men, who were reserved for the galleys.

The narrative of De Morga ends with the year 1606. As regards himself he is almost too reticent, for being a man of great worth and valour we should like to have heard more about him, and his own thoughts, opinions and experiences would have been valuable. The only occasion on which he makes a prominent figure is in the command of an expedition against the Dutch pirate, Oliver van Noort. He was successful in his attack upon this rover, but the Spaniards suffered very heavily in the encounter. This will be seen from the following passage:—

"The Manila admiral, who had taken the van, came within range of the cannon of the Dutch; and after that these had discharged their broadside, he came and grappled with the Dutch ship, and part of his crew sprung on board of her, with a furious mien, carrying shields and gilded helmets, and all sorts of armour; they shouted frightfully, 'Amayna, Perros, Amayna,' that is to say, 'Strike, dogs, strike your sails and flag.' The Dutch then went down below the deck, and the Spaniards thought they were already masters of the ship, the more so that they were seven or eight to one. But they saw themselves all at once so ill treated with blows of pikes and musketry, that their fury was not long in slackening. Indeed, there were soon several of them stretched dead upon the deck. However, the Spanish vice-admiral was also bearing down upon the Dutch admiral, but there is much probability that he thought that his countrymen had already gained the mastery, for he went off in chase of the yacht, which had set her topsails and had gone to leeward of the admiral. The Manila admiral remained all day grappled with the Dutchman, because his anchor was fast in the cordage before the mast of the latter, and the anchor tore the deck in several places, which left the Dutch crew much exposed. Meantime the Spaniards frequently discharged their broadsides at them, and the others did not fail to answer them. But at last the Dutch began to slacken their fire, seeing that there were already a great many of them wounded. The admiral having perceived this slack-

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ness, went below the deck, and threatened his crew to set fire to the powder if they did not fight with redoubled ardour. This threat had its effect: they regained courage, and there were even some wounded men who got up and returned to the fight. On the other side the enemy was not less disheartened, and part of his men had abandoned the Dutch ship. There were close by two Chinese sampans full of people, but they did not venture to come any nearer on account of the cannon. So the Spanish crew, instead of continuing their attack, only made efforts to cast loose, in doing which they had very great difficulty. However, the Dutch kept discharging their heavy guns upon the ship: at last the Manila admiral got away, and a little while after he was seen to sink, which he did so fast that he went down almost in the twinkling of an eye, and disappeared entirely, masts and all. Then the Spaniards were to be seen trying to prolong their life by swimming and crying out *Misericordia*, seeming to be about two hundred, besides those who were already drowned or killed. The Dutch squared their fore-yard, for their main yard had been cut down and their shrouds cut away. But what alarmed them most was the fire, which, from the continual discharges which they had made, had caught between decks, so much so that they had reason to fear that all would be burned. They succeeded, however, in extinguishing it, and then they rendered their prayers of thanksgiving to God, who had delivered them from so many dangers. When they saw themselves out of danger they lay to, to repair damages, passing amongst many of their enemies who were still swimming, and whose heads, which appeared above water, they pushed under whenever they could reach them. Two dead bodies of Spaniards had remained on board: upon one of them was found a small silver box, in which were little papers full of recommendations and devotions to various Saints, men and women, to obtain their protection in perils."

The whole area of the Philippine Islands is 12,900 square leagues; the population in 1851 was 3,800,000; the net produce from three sources of revenue, tobacco, spirits and tribute, was, in 1849, 3,681,693 dollars. Spain draws, or has drawn, no inconsiderable sum from the Islands. But a terrible earthquake in 1863 and other disasters have lately curtailed the surplus. However, the figures just given are sufficient to show the importance of the colony. It deserves attention, and Mr. Stanley has enriched the account of it with a Preface and notes.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

A Short Practical Hebrew Grammar, &c. By the Rev. S. Leathes. (Murray.) THE number of Hebrew grammars is said to be a thousand, though the number of Hebrew scholars, at least in England, is very small. He is, therefore, a bold man who undertakes to publish another, and his work should show some peculiar excellence. We cannot say that the present elementary grammar has any distinguishing feature that commends it to special notice. It is easy and practical; but conducts the student a short way into the interior of the Hebrew language. After perusing it, he will soon require a better. It is desirable that the learner should be compelled to buy as few grammars as possible. For all the ends which the great majority of students have in view, the smaller grammar of Gesenius, edited by Roediger, is the best. We prefer it much to the present one, even for beginners; and it is certainly better for advanced readers. The grammar of Kalisch, too, is excellent. With works so accessible to the student the present cannot be compared in value. But teachers are fond of compiling grammars for the use of their own pupils. The work occasionally lacks precision and accuracy, neither does it incorporate all modern improvements. Thus, the *past* and *future* tenses are still retained, instead of the *perfect* and *imperfect*. And the imperfect might be exhibited more briefly and philosophically than by saying that it expresses (1) the actual future, (2) the future perfect, (3) the present, (4) the present of habitual action, (5) the past of habitual action, (6) the imperfect, (7) conti-

nuous or contemporaneous action, (8) the conditional or subjunctive, (9) the optative, (10) the imperative, (11), the English *may*, *must*, *ought*, &c. Many of these might be brought under the head of "the dependent use of the future or imperfect," i.e. when the occurrence of an event is represented as dependent either on the will or on external circumstances. We have also observed various incorrect statements, such as that the article is often used to express the vocative, which is never the case. The article is sometimes prefixed to nouns in the vocative to give point to the exclamation; but it never expresses the vocative itself. In like manner, it is erroneously stated that the particle *ki* sometimes asks a question. The paradigm of the regular verb should not be *pakad* because of the initial letter, but some one like *katal*. An appendix gives the Hebrew text of Genesis i.—vi. and Psalms i.—vi., with a grammatical analysis and vocabulary. In our opinion it is better not to encumber a grammar with these things. In the grammatical analysis the erroneous version of Psalm ii. 12. occurs, *Kiss the Son*; and the difficult word *eth* in Genesis iv. 1. is passed over. The best portion of the book is the list of irregular verbs. As far as we can see, the compiler has not relied on the highest sources, Gesenius and Ewald; but various references to Mason and Bernard appear, which are significant of his critical discernment.

The Insect World; being a Popular Account of the Orders of Insects. From the French of Louis Fignier. (Chapman & Hall.)

WE have already noticed this work in its original form and language, and we gave to it the praise it well deserves. We are glad to find that the frivolous pictures to which we objected have been removed, but with this exception the translation has the advantage of being illustrated by the same admirable wood-cuts as the original; and upon the whole the author is fairly represented in his English dress. There is an additional chapter on the order *Strepsiptera*, the fault of which is that it is too short. Some recent generic synonyms and English habitats are added, by which the work is rendered more generally available to an English student, and will be found an exceedingly useful and at the same time a very interesting introduction to the science. The principal faults we have to find are that the language is full of awkward gallicisms, and that the French names of the weights and measures are retained, without giving the English equivalents. The first must have arisen from carelessness, or from a limited vocabulary of his own language on the part of the translator. In some parts this is so conspicuous that it seems as if it were the work of a Frenchman not very well up in his English. Should the work arrive at a second edition it ought to undergo a rigid supervision by some one accustomed to English composition.

The Natural History of Man; being an Account of the Manners and Customs of the Uncivilized Races of Men. By the Rev. J. G. Wood. With new Designs. (Routledge & Sons.)

THE reader who may happen to be familiar with the works of the noble company of African travellers who found the interior of Africa unknown and made it known, will find the perusal of this compilation an irksome and wearisome task. Mr. J. G. Wood writes with a running pen, and his reader follows him with a halting attention. The style flows, but the interest stops. There are compilers who quicken the subjects they put together, and there are compilers who benumb them; and this gentleman is of the latter kind. No doubt, any one who is wholly ignorant of Africa may find much information in this book; but for a real insight into the peculiarities of the African varieties of mankind, the student must study the narratives of the travellers who have sought, seen and known them in their newly-explored homes.

From Morning to Evening: a Book for Invalids. From the French of l'Abbé Henri Perreyve. Translated and Adapted by an Associate of the Sisterhood of St. John Baptist, Clewer. (Rivingtons.)

OF the author of 'La Journée des Malades' a writer, whose words are quoted in the translator's preface, remarks: "The Abbé Perreyve, though

dying early, has had ample experience of a sick room, both as its tenant and as its visitor. M. Guizot, in his recent discourse at the Academy, makes honourable mention of him as the consoler of the dying moments of M. Ampère: a young priest of the loftiest mind and gentlest heart, who had become his friend, and the friend of his friends, the Abbé Henri Perreyve, brought him the only efficacious consolation, human sympathy and christian hopes. Some months after, the consoler himself, the Abbé Perreyve, died, in the flower of youth, faith and virtue." This testimony to M. Perreyve's devoutness and amiability is sustained by the contents of a manual which is calculated to afford spiritual comfort to a numerous class of invalids. To our readers of the Catholic faith we commend it as a meritorious and salutary publication.

WE have on our table *The True Passover*, by Thomas Parry, D.D. (Rivingtons).—*The Scottish Hymnal: Hymns for Public Worship* selected by the Committee of the General Assembly on Hymns (Blackwood).—*On some of the Minor Moralities of Life*, by Edward White (Stock).—*The Holy Sacrament of the Lord's Supper according to Scripture, Grammar, and the Faith*, by the Rev. S. C. Malan, M.A. (Nutt).—*A Man's Belief: an Essay on the Facts of Religious Knowledge* (Williams & Norgate).—*One Thousand Objects for the Microscope*, by M. C. Cooke (Warne). Also the following pamphlets: *Sermons, Occasional and Parochial*, by the Rev. J. Keble, M.A., Part II. (Parker).—*A Charge delivered to the Clergy of the United Diocese of Dublin and Glandelagh and Kildare, and, with some Alterations, to the Clergy of the Provinces of Dublin and Cashel, at the Triennial Visitation*, by Richard Chenevix (Dublin, Hodges & Smith).—*The Power of Unostentatious Piety, a Sermon preached in St. Philip's Chapel, Regent Street, and before the Queen and Royal Family in the Private Chapel, Windsor, by Francis Pigou, M.A.* (Rivingtons).—*Letters from a Layman to One who has Left the Church of England for that of Rome*, by the Hon. Francis Scott (Rivingtons).—*Italian Church Reformation: an Occasional Paper* (Dublin, Herbert).—*The Hebrews and Hebrew*, by the Rev. C. L. Lauria (Macintosh).—*Address on Christian Missions to India with General Reference to the Educational Missions of the Church of Scotland*, by Norman Macleod, D.D. (Blackwood).—*Thoughts on the Separation of Church and State*, by the late Rev. Edward Burton, D.D. (Parker).—*and Justice to Ireland; or, the Whigs and the Tories: a Conversation between Mr. Cornelius O'Flaherty, of Melbourne, and Mr. B. O'Brien, of the County Clare* (Dublin, Hodges & Smith).

BOOKS FOR CHILDREN.

Happy Sunday Evenings: the New Testament Story. By T. E. L. (Nelson & Co.)

"Happy Sunday Evenings" is a little book for children; one in which parts of the Sacred Story are told as a story, rather than as a mystery, and in a way to engage the interest of a student of five or six. The points are nicely put, and the bits of Oriental manner thrown in as illustration are fresh and to the purpose. Many a child will be glad to hear this book read aloud by mamma on a Sunday evening.

Jack the Conqueror; or, Difficulties Overcome. By C. E. Bowen. (Partridge & Co.)

THIS is a slight sketch of the life of a poor boy, who by perseverance and industry fights his way from rags and dirt to the position of tutor at the university. The author means well, but has drawn a boy by no means natural. The little book we recommend to the youngsters on account of the illustrations, which are excellent.

Old Burchell's Pocket for the Children. By Elihu Burritt. (Cassell, Petter & Galpin.)

IT seems that children like their story-tellers to be of venerable years. First came old Parley, christened Peter; then came Old Humphry, whose books have afforded pleasure to innumerable nurseries and play-rooms. Not many years since Old Merry started in business as a spinner of yarns for boys and girls; and now Elihu Burritt contributes to the enormous and rapidly-increasing mass of literature for the young a volume of pleasant

talk about Old England and New England, the papers of which are supposed to have been taken from just such a capacious pocket as that in which Oliver Goldsmith's Old Burchell used to carry about gingerbread and picture-books and halfpenny whistles for the benefit of the little ones who used to shout for joy when they caught sight of their kindly patron coming towards them. "Now," says Mr. Burritt, "I am very sorry to say, that, were I had begun to think of such a thing, I awoke and found myself as old as good Mr. Burchell was when he went about in this way—full old enough to wear a cocked hat like his, and a coat to match it. How much I wish I could wear on the outside of mine a pocket as large as his, and fill it as well for the children. There was always something so generous and confiding in the outside pocket of the olden time; then it was so broad and deep, and one could put his hand into it so easily, that it meant well to everybody, and wore an inviting look, like the back door to a large and warm heart. I am sorry such pockets have gone out of fashion, and that those worn now-a-days are much smaller and more shut up and hidden away from sight." No scribe amongst the light-fingered gentry could indite a prettier plea in behalf of the convenient pocket of the good old days. But Elihu Burritt, *alias* Old Burchell, may well wear his pocket outside his coat's skirt, for its contents are at the service of every child in the land who cares for cheery gossip about social things. May Old Burchell prosper!

The Angel of the Iceberg, and other Stories and Parables illustrating Great Moral Truths, designed chiefly for the Young. By the Rev. John Todd, D.D. Illustrated. (Cassell, Petter & Galpin.)

Dr. Todd is a very heavy and soporific moralist, who has no single qualification requisite in a children's story-teller. 'The Angel of the Iceberg' is a short and unusually foolish story of a very absurd angel, called Ice-melter, who endeavoured to raise the Polar regions to boiling point by making an enormous bonfire on the top of an iceberg. The Doctor's researches in divinity seem to have inspired him with a very contemptuous opinion of the intellectual characteristics of the angelic world.

A Month at Ashfield Farm; or, Ellen and Robert's First Journey Home. With Illustrations. (Cassell, Petter & Galpin.)

THE children of an honest London artisan, Ellen and Robert Cooper, are recovering from febrile illness, when they are invited to stay a month in the country within uncles and aunts who are the tenants of Ashfield Farm. How the sickly children grow ruddy and sunburnt and strong, whilst playing in Farmer Buxton's hay-fields and eating the farmer's wholesome fare, and how they return to their native city with a big basket crammed with rural produce for their parents, are amongst the matters set forth in a story of exceptional merit.

Redfield: a Visit to the Country: a Story for Children. (Warne & Co.)

GRANDMAMA lives at Redfield in "a large old house, with a pleasant garden behind and on one side, and green grass in front, on which cows and sheep graze up to the very windows and door;" and when Arthur, Peter, and Kate pay her a visit they find grandmama a most amiable and judicious old lady, who gives them a series of capital treats, and does not omit to scold them when they are naughty. At Redfield the young people "have a time," as the Americans say; and they enjoy it all the more because grandmama knows how to keep them in order.

Asop's Fables in Words of One Syllable. By Mary Godolphin. (Cassell, Petter & Galpin.)

THE title of this book for beginners in reading states what Miss Godolphin has done, and leaves us nothing to add, except that the lady has done her work well.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

Æschylus' Orestes, tr. by Dalton, 5s. 5d.
Ainsworth's Earth Delimited with Pen and Pencil, illust. 21s. 6d.
Afford's How to Study the New Testament, Vol. 3, 12mo. 3s. 6d.
Arctostaphylos' Waage, ed. by Green, 8vo. 3s. 6d.
Bannerman's Church of Christ, ed. by his Son, 2 vols. 8vo. 21s. 6d.
Beeton's Boy's Book of History and Adventures, 8vo. 5s. 6d.
Borlase's Daring Deeds, illust. 12mo. 2s. 6d.
Bowman's Boy Foresters, 12mo. 3s. 6d.

Bright's Life, by McGilchrist, 8s. 1s. 5d.
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Johnston's Middle Class Atlas, 8vo. 2s. 6d.
Juvénal's Satires, with Notes by Esott, 12mo. 4s. 6d.
Lee's Adventures in Australia, 12mo. 3s. 6d.
Leopold I., Memoirs of, by Juske, tr. by Black, 2 vols. 8vo. 25s. 6d.
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Macgregor's Questions on Magnetism, 12mo. 1s. 6d.
Man's Belief, an Essay on the Facts of Religious Knowledge, 2 vols. 8vo. 31s. 6d.
Nature's Noblemen, by Author of 'Raphael's Secret', 3 vols. 31s. 6d.
Newman's Parochial and Plain Sermons, Vol. 7, 8vo. 5s. 6d.
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ASSYRIAN POETRY.

Bathaston, Bath, Nov. 7, 1868.

I have, I think, made a discovery of some interest to Assyrian scholars. It has long been a matter of surprise that the cuneiform inscriptions, multifarious as are their contents, have afforded us no specimens of poetry. And yet the Assyrians were members of the Semitic family, whose household language, we might almost say, is itself poetry. At last, however, I have found, in a hitherto unedited inscription of Sargan's, what I believe to be a clear example of Assyrian verse. It exhibits all the parallelism of the Hebrew Psalms, and consists of an invocation to Ussur, the god of "binding" contracts. The following is a translation of the inscription in question; the sense of which, with the exception of the words in Italics, may be regarded as well ascertained. I have divided it into its several stanzas and verses:—

- I. 1. O Ussur, lord of the wise: thou that (art) the sender forth of his strong hand.
2. For Sargan, the mighty king, King of Assyria, high-priest of Babylon, King of Sumir and Accad: construct thy building.
3. Even the dwelling-place of his splendour: may he multiply glory!
- II. 1. In the midst of Bit-Sacaddi and Bit-Tsirra establish his course-of-life: make firm the foundations of the earth!
2. Make perfect his chariot: confer on him the dominion of the world (and) stability ever-to-be-remembered!
3. Make good his arrows: and may he desolate his foes!

It will be seen that the parallelism between the two stanzas is very exact. The opposition of the pronouns is carefully observed; the interchange of the second and third persons taking place proportionately. Throughout the inscription, the god and the king are sharply contrasted; while in each stanza the deity is the subject of the first clause, the monarch is the subject of the third—the second clause forming a sort of link between the other two. To a certain extent, also, the verses show a gradational tendency, the climax being reached in the last line of each stanza; at all events, the second stanza, extended as it is to the whole world, is an advance upon the first, which confines its point of view to a single temple. Lastly, we must notice the way in which the divine names are made to answer to one another in the first lines of the two stanzas, as well as the precatory form assumed by the last clause of each. Possibly a sort of rhyme may be intended between the concluding words, *bukari* (glory) and *gari* (foes). The ejaculation,

"make firm the foundations of the earth!" is characteristic. It will readily suggest many similar expressions in the Hebrew Psalms, and the invocation at the beginning may be compared with such Psalms as the Eightieth and the Ninety-fourth. I think the phrase, "In the midst of Bit-Sacaddi and Bit-Tsirra" was an idiom, signifying "In the fullness of power and fortune," or something similar, just as we find Usur called "the son of Bit-Tsirra," and the expression "purifier of the tabernacle of the star Tarkhi" used in the sense of "devout worshipper of the gods." A. H. SAYCE.

CHARLES THE BOLD.

Dorchester, Mass. U.S., Oct. 17, 1868.

I shall be much indebted to your courtesy if you will allow me to notice in your columns an assertion put forth by Mr. Edward A. Freeman in a recent review of my 'History of Charles the Bold.'

Mr. Freeman says that, in my account of the Swiss War, I have been "only working in the beat of De Gingins, by whom" my "main facts and arguments" had "been already strongly set forth." This statement is simply and wholly untrue. The mass of proofs which I have collected and adduced has been derived almost exclusively from the Swiss archives, which were never examined by M. de Gingins. His only knowledge of the documents contained in them was obtained from printed works, and extended to very few of the passages cited in my work. It was precisely on account of the scantiness and insufficiency of his facts that his view of the origin of the war obtained so little credence. That view did not originate with him, nor did I derive it from him. It had been maintained long before by Swiss scholars, especially by Lauffer, but without the production of the grounds on which it rested, and consequently without affecting the common impressions. Mr. Freeman, it appears, is even yet unconvinced. He still holds to a theory which he professes to have borrowed from that very indifferently scholar, Zellweger. But he neither brings forward any evidence in support of it, nor bestows any notice upon the evidence by which it has been demolished.

He is quite right in supposing that I shall not "write a pamphlet" in defence of any "blunders." It will be soon enough to think of this when he shall have shown, or attempted to show, that I have committed blunders. He talks, it is true, a great deal about my not "realizing facts" with which he admits that I am well acquainted. I shall not, in his own fashion, affect to be in doubt as to his meaning because he has been unable to express it in proper English. "Realize," in the sense in which he uses the word, is a vulgar Americanism. In its proper sense it signifies to *make real*. It is therefore, of course, not applicable to facts, but only to conceptions or ideas. Mr. Freeman's meaning was the opposite of what he says. He meant to say that I had not conceived and comprehended the facts as realities. But this assertion too appears as his mere *ipse dixit*; and without laying claim to that extent of knowledge which Mr. Freeman seeks to parade,—an extent which would be superhuman were it not merely superficial,—I do not feel called upon to discuss the crotchets of a writer who denies that countries have any "natural boundaries," or that these have influenced the growth of states and nations—who sees only an "accident" in the chain of causes which made Paris the head of an empire, and left Nancy and Lausanne provincial towns. J. F. KIRK.

MILTON'S MOTHER.

32, St. George's Square, Nov. 7, 1868.

HAVING contributed to the Milton genealogy by the discovery of Milton's grandfather, communicated to the *Athenæum* some years ago, I take the opportunity of giving a hint to Col. Chester. He says that Paul Jeffray was a Merchant Taylor. I therefore suggest to him to do what I did in the case of Milton, the scrivener; that is, apply to search the Company's register. In the case of these entries of citizens, the name of the father is given, and in some cases his designation and place of residence. If successful, Col. Chester will obtain

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one or more links in the Jeffray pedigree, and perhaps some particulars of the career of Jeffray as a member of the Company, which may lead to further elucidation of the obscure portion of Milton's early life.

HYDE CLARKE.

THE FIRST MENTION OF CANNON IN ENGLAND.

Woolwich, Nov. 6, 1868.

My attention has just been directed to a note on this subject, at p. 205 of Mr. Riley's most valuable 'Memorials of London and London Life,' containing an error which, occurring in so important a work, and coming from so skilful and learned an antiquary, should be corrected with the publicity that the *Athenæum* affords. Mr. Riley quotes a passage from an inventory of munitions of war provided by the City, bearing date 13 Edw. 3, A.D. 1339, in which are mentioned six instruments of war, called "Gonnes," and five "roleres" for the same; pellets of lead to the weight of four-and-a-half hundredweight; and thirty-two pounds of powder for the said instruments. He then adds, "This is probably the earliest passage at present known that bears reference to the use of cannon in England; and, this taken into consideration, the information it gives is remarkably full; the earliest hitherto pointed out in the Privy Wardrobe Accounts (in Mr. Hewitt's 'Arms and Armour of the Fourteenth Century') being five years later in date."

In the first of my papers on 'Ancient Cannon in Europe,' published in May, 1865, in the *Proceedings of the Royal Artillery Institution*, I called attention to an earlier and more complete notice of the employment of cannon in England, for the first publication of which we are indebted to that indefatigable antiquary, Sir Nicholas Harris Nicolas.

As the subject is one of considerable interest,—as probably few of your readers have ever examined the Appendix to the second volume of Sir Harris Nicolas's 'History of the Royal Navy,' in which (p. 475) this remarkable document is cited,—as my paper has only been circulated among my brother officers and a few antiquarian friends; and as careful search among the Queen's Remembrancer's miscellaneous papers (army accounts) at the Record Office, and elsewhere, has failed to provide me with any earlier notice of cannon in England than this, you will, perhaps, allow me to bring it before your readers.

The document to which I allude is an "indenture between John Starlyng, formerly clerk of the ships, galleys, barges, balingers, and other theking's vessels, and Helmyng Leget, keeper of the same, bearing date 22nd June, 12 Edw. 3, 1338." The said John delivered to the said Helmyng in a ship called the Bernard de la Tour, "ij canons de ferr sanz estoff." The same delivered to the same the barge called La Marie de la Tour, whereof John Brambehill is master, with the "apparaill," &c., "un canon de ferr ove ij chambres, un autre de bras ove une chambre, un ketill, un spougeour, &c." Also, "La nief appelle la carake dont Petre de Lannant est meistre," amongst other articles, "un canon." Also, "La hulke appelle X'tofre de la Tour dont John Kyngeston est meistre,"—among other things, "ij canons de ferr ove v chambres, un handgone," &c.

It is quite possible that further search may bring to light even earlier documents than this; in the mean time it takes precedence of Mr. Riley's in point both of time and interest. It shows us that at this early date cannon were made both of iron and brass, that they were breech-loading, with separate chambers, a fact corroborated by many later documents and by many miniatures in the MSS. of the fifteenth century; and also,—a fact not so clearly recognized,—that already the hand-gun was known as a distinct weapon from the cannon. Among the parcels in the storehouse on the same day, as we learn from the same source, was "un petit barrell de gonpouder le quart plein;" and there is no other mention of powder for the service of these guns.

If we except the Florentine document first produced by M. Libri, and afterwards verified by M. Mas-Latrie, of the *École des Chartes*, which gives authority to the priors, gonfalonier, and twelve good men, to appoint persons to superintend the manufacture of "pilas seu palloctas ferreas et canones de metallo" for the defence of the com-

mune, camps, and territory of Florence in February 1326, this is the earliest authentic voucher for the use of cannon in Europe. For I need scarcely say that Barbour's poetry about "crakys off wer" in 1327, written, as it was, in 1375, the "Kalendare of Brute," a late fifteenth-century MS., quoted by Strutt as an authority for the use of cannon in 1332, and the wild gossip of fifteenth-century chroniclers as to the use of guns at far earlier dates, are no more to be relied upon than is the picture describing Gideon making use of field-pieces against the Midianites, which may be seen in that admirable manuscript in the British Museum, numbered Royal 18. E. v, and dating in the latter half of the fifteenth century. The only other contemporary document approaching this in date is that receipt from William of the mill of Boulogne, keeper of the King's galleys at Rouen, for a "pot de fer à traire garros à feu," with "garros," and saltpetre and sulphur to make powder "pour traire les diz garros;" bearing date 2nd July, 1338, ten days later than our English voucher. This was first published by M. Léon Lacabane, in his 'Bibliothèque de l'École des Chartes.' It is remarkable to find the first French and English documents proving the existence of cannon so very nearly of the same date.

I am aware that there exists a vague general impression that guns were used at a much earlier date by the Spaniards and their antagonists, and that this impression has been strengthened by careless writers, who assert that to have happened which their more guarded predecessors said might have happened. I have failed to discover any satisfactory evidence of such early employment of cannon; and those of your readers who care for military antiquities may be interested in the following extract of a letter in my possession from that learned antiquary Don Pascual de Gayangos, Professor of Arabic in the University of Madrid, late Archivist of the Queen of Spain's Palace:—"Nor is there in our libraries any book or manuscript relating to the science of gunnery in those times, except the occasional facts mentioned in our old chronicles and those of the Arabs, which proved that a description of gun of which we know nothing, and loaded with *naphtha* and *barud* (gunpowder) was introduced by the Arabs coming from Africa, and used by them at the Siege of Algeiras at the beginning of the ninth century. The same, I believe, that came from China and India."

I have digressed from my heading "The First Mention of Cannon in England;" but as true history can only be founded on correct facts, you will, I trust, assist in ventilating this curious subject, which, like many others rising in the mists of the middle ages, has often been sadly garbled.

HENRY BRACKENBURY, Capt. R.A.

AN AUTHOR'S COMPLAINT.

Society of Arts, Adelphi, Nov. 10, 1868.

WITHOUT expressing any opinion on the merits of the controversy between Mr. Murray and Mr. Nugent, permit me to correct the statements of the latter gentleman in his letter of the 28th of October, appearing in the *Athenæum* of last week, in which he cites Col. Sykes as asserting that the barometer stood at twenty inches at one locality in India, whilst it stood contemporaneously at another locality at no great distance at thirty inches, and gives as his authority the *Journal of the Society of Arts*, reporting a paper read before that Society by Mr. Christopher Cooke, and the discussion which ensued. The "twenty inches" was obviously a printer's error, and was corrected to twenty-eight inches in the following number of the *Journal*.

Mr. Nugent's statements, that Mr. Christopher Cooke received the Gold Medal of the Society of Arts for his paper, and was appointed one of the Secretaries of the Board of Trade, are neither of them correct. No medal whatever was awarded to Mr. Christopher Cooke, nor has he been appointed one of the Secretaries of the Board of Trade.

P. LE NEVE FOSTER, Secretary.

17, Tower Buildings, Liverpool, Nov. 10, 1868.

Will you kindly allow me to say a few words in reply to Messrs. Virtue's letter in your last impression? They say that "of Mr. Murray's existence

we were not aware when we went to press with his book." As my designation and address are set forth respectively on the title-page and Preface of the previous edition, it surely would not have cost a very great effort of ingenuity to have ascertained this fact, had they wished to do so.

Having done me an irreparable injury in the most public manner by the issue of this edition, Messrs. Virtue "regret that Mr. Murray had not the courtesy to write to them privately." So far as "want of courtesy" is concerned, I willingly leave your readers to put the saddle on the right horse.

Mr. E. Nugent is hurt because I do not treat his blundering interference with my book with all the suavity and politeness of a Chesterfield. He should remember that, having undertaken to edit and revise the work of a living author without his consent, he has fairly exposed himself to the severest criticism at my hands. I may tell him that my only reason for withholding "proof" of the manifest absurdity of his statements was out of respect for the intelligence of your readers; but as he still insists upon believing in a fall of ten inches in the barometer upon the presumed authority of Col. Sykes, I shall now quote to him the Colonel as evidence against himself. In the *Journal of the Society of Arts* of the 15th of March, 1867, Col. Sykes writes to the editor as follows:—"I stated that on board a ship, in a cyclone off the coast of Malabar, the barometer stood at twenty-eight inches (not twenty inches, which I suppose is a misprint), while a barometer at Outacamund, within a hundred miles, reduced to the level of the sea, stood at thirty inches: so that within one hundred miles there was a difference of atmospheric pressure of two inches of mercury.—W. H. Sykes." Is there any one except Mr. E. Nugent, C.E., of European and American reputation (as he informs us), who could have believed otherwise?

With regard to Ruthven's hydraulic propeller, the simple fact that the orifice from which the water issues is above the water-line of the ship is surely "proof" enough of the incorrectness of Mr. Nugent's assertion that "the force of the expelled water from the nozzles acting against the external water is the propeller."

As to the late Mr. Evans Hopkins's method of depolarizing iron ships (of the efficacy of which there has not been sufficient experience to warrant any decided opinion), I speak from my own practical, ocular observation, and not from a newspaper paragraph, when I repeat that Mr. Nugent asserts an absurdity when he says that "by the application of two Groves' batteries of five cells each, with their electro-magnets, to the bow and stern, the vessel is completely depolarized in the course of a few hours." The fact is, that the depolarizing process is confined to the iron in the immediate vicinity of each compass requiring correction, and does not extend beyond eight or ten feet in any direction, each beam and other piece of iron within this range being separately acted upon, sometimes by a strong horse-shoe magnet, sometimes by an electro-magnet.

ROBERT MURRAY.

BOOKS FOR THE BLIND.

The Commandery, Worcester, Nov. 4, 1868.

ALLOW me to add but one more communication on the subject which has lately been agitated in the *Athenæum*, viz., "embossed printing for the blind." I am not surprised that Dr. Armitage has charged me once more with incorrectness in giving data, for he is evidently somewhat apt to speak hastily. I nowhere said that all the American institutions use the Roman type. In one place I said the American institutions; in another, "most, if not all." Now, since Dr. Armitage himself confesses that all those institutions but one use it, and the Indiana report for 1866-7 says all use it, I cannot be considered incorrect in my moderate form of expression. Respecting the data furnished in Dr. Armitage's letter, it may be justly replied that statistics of the kind advanced are exceedingly unfit for a basis of action. They are very uncertain. But even if worthy of the fullest credit, and if one case might be alleged as applicable to the whole, better far would it be that 65 per cent. should use what 100 per cent. of those with whom they desire to mingle can understand, than that

100 per cent. should avail themselves of a medium which not 1 per 10,000 can comprehend. Placed beyond the pale of institutions, moreover, the importance to the blind of abundant means of being instructed will far outweigh the comparative facilities of touch in a system. And small indeed is the ratio of the number of blind in asylums to that of those without. If then the difficulties of deciphering Roman type are considerable, would not common sense suggest, rather, that the size of this character be increased to the size of its rivals, than that it be abandoned for methods utterly and confessedly incapable of universal application?

Now, in comparing the various systems it is but honest to take size into account. It is plain that a type well separated and measuring a quarter of an inch will be more readily made out by a hard-handed man than a small and close character. By carefully-conducted experiments I have found that a person blind from childhood, and accustomed to continued practice, could read type well raised and spaced down to one-sixteenth of an inch. This may be considered, I think, the minimum tactile under the most favourable conditions. At one-eighth of an inch a fair reader will read comfortably Roman type: at three-sixteenths with the greatest ease. The Roman character of Dr. Fry, then, measures from one-eighth to three-sixteenths of an inch; of Dr. Howe, of Boston, three-sixteenths of an inch; and three-sixteenths is the maximum Roman as a rule. But Moon's type, Lucas's, and the Belgian type measure a quarter of an inch fully, and in consequence are easily read by very hard hands. Samples of the French system (Braille's) also measure a quarter of an inch; but I have not been able to measure the type as it stands in books, and therefore cannot say whether or not it is, in use, as large as the others. One thing is certain: at equal dimensions, the Roman type is more cognizable by the blind reader than this system. Our society, then, having made many and "extensive inquiries" in the true sense, has decided to adopt the system possessing the maximum of advantages, and to issue works which the hard-handed can read, and not in a small crabbed type. And I think Dr. Armitage might have given the promoters of this scheme credit for sufficient sense and philanthropy to endeavour earnestly to avoid previous errors, and to make due investigation.

I could fill a very large pamphlet with statistics collected under the auspices of the "Society for Providing the Blind with Cheap Literature," which would tend to establish, beyond reasonable doubt, that it is not only unnecessary but positively vicious to adopt a separate measure of education for the blind, and incalculable would be the mischief done to them as a class if Dr. Armitage's well-meant but unphilosophical effort were to succeed. At the same time, there is no compulsion in the undertaking, and if we propose to supply Roman-typed works at a cheap rate, we do not also propose to destroy by fire and faggot the arbitrary mysteries of inventive geniuses like Mr. Moon. Let these sagacious people follow our example, and then in all respects the blind will be the gainers.

In declining to pursue this subject further, because of occupations which demand all my time, allow me to express grateful thanks to you on our society's behalf for the fair hearing you have granted to our cause.

ROBERT HUGH BLAIR, M.A.

THE GOLD-FIELDS OF EASTERN AFRICA, AND THE LAND OF OPHIR.

Bekebourne, Nov. 9, 1868.

In the last number of the *Athenæum* I stated that, though the "gold of Ophir" of the Hebrew Scriptures was obtained from the east coast of Africa, Ophir itself was in Arabia. With your permission I will now give my reasons for this paradox.

'In my *Origines Biblicæ*' the opinion is recorded that the people from whom the country of Ophir derived its name were originally placed on the western side of the head of the Persian Gulf, in the vicinity of Havilah and Sheba, the three being named in conjunction in the tenth chapter of the Book of Genesis ("And Joktan begat . . . Sheba and Ophir and Havilah"); Havilah, like Ophir, being famed for its gold, and Sheba being also

noted for its supplies of the precious metal (Ps. lxxii. 15; Ezek. xxvii. 22). Thus we read of the Queen of Sheba, who, on the occasion of Solomon's first sending ships to Ophir, was induced to cross the Arabian desert to Jerusalem, carrying with her as a present 120 talents of gold, at the same time that the Tyro-Israelitish fleet brought 420 talents from Ophir, by the way of the Sea of Edom, or Red Sea. There is no evidence, however, of gold having ever been the natural production of those Arabian districts.

Why the "gold of Ophir" should have obtained the name of a place which did not produce it is easily explained. Ophir was the principal country from which the gold was *lost* exported. I will adduce several similar instances, which, whilst elucidating the present question, will at the same time serve to throw light on the history of the *emporium* of antiquity, which were, and in some cases still are, imagined to have produced the articles bearing their names, whereas the same were merely brought to them for sale, sometimes from immense distances, either by sea or by land.

The coffee of the shores of the Red Sea, when first imported into Europe from the Turkish ports in the Levant, came to us as "Turkey" coffee; and though it is now known to us as "Mocha" coffee, Mocha is not the place of its growth, but simply the port of shipment; and even this it is now no longer. The rhubarb of the druggists, *Rheum palmatum*, is to this day called "Turkey" rhubarb, because our Turkey merchants were its first importers; though all that even now is known of its origin is, that the Russians buy it from the Chinese at the frontier market-town of Kiachta, and hence it is *supposed* to be the produce of Thibet; but the precise place of its growth and even the species of *rheum* are, I believe, still unascertained. The slaves of Kaffa and the neighbouring countries of Southern Abyssinia, when taken to the market of Baso in Gôdjam, are by the Galla slave-dealers called *Sidamas*—this being the general denomination for *Christians*, which many of those poor creatures are; but, in the transit across Abyssinia, they become "Gallas"; and when carried from the latter country into Arabia, Egypt, or Persia, they are known as "Hubshees," or Abyssinians. The products of Indian looms, purchased by the traders of the West in the markets of Mosul and Damascus, became with us "muslins" and "damasks"; as the silken fabrics of France and England, when carried from the fair of Leipzig into Circassia, are "Leipzig" silks, whose lustre serves the Circassian poet as a foil to the glossy hair of his mistress. So, too, Brazil sugar sent from Lisbon to the Mediterranean was called "Lisbon" sugar, as in like manner Welsh or English coal, shipped from Liverpool to North America, is there known as "Liverpool" coal. The marble quarried in the mountains of Carrara and shipped at the port of Luna became "Lunar" marble, just as the straw hats of Tuscany are called "Leghorn" hats.

Many other instances might be given, but one more shall suffice, and it is the more conclusive because it is that of a production of Eastern Africa, carried thence in the same direction as the gold. The article known in our London market as "Bombay gum-anime" is, in fact, the produce of the continent of Africa, near Zanzibar, where the supply is said to be limited only by the will of the lazy natives to dig it up and bring it to market. Carried from Zanzibar to Bombay, its origin is there altogether lost sight of—perhaps is designedly concealed; and this Zanzibar copal comes to England under the name of "Bombay" gum-anime, being said to be the produce of India, washed down by the rivers to the coast.

So was it with the gold of Ophir, Havilah, and Sheba, which, brought from the east-coast of Africa to these maritime districts of Arabia by the south-west monsoon, which at the present day carries the gum-copal of the same region to the port of Bombay, obtained its name from them instead of the country of which it was the natural product.

As regards the length of the voyage from Ezion-geber to Ophir, it has to be explained that the "three years" which Solomon's "ships of Tarshish" employed in performing it, mean three years *inclusive*, which become practically only two years. They

went one year, returned the next, and went again the third; and native vessels trading between the head of the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf at the present day would take just as long. In *Origines Biblicæ* I have adduced several similar and even stronger instances of this mode of computation. I will repeat one here:—"It is on this principle that the Jews computed their kings' reigns: according to the doctrine of the Talmud, Treatise *Rosh Hash-shanah*, 'a king who has been elected on the 29th of Adar (the last day of the year), has on the 1st of Nisan (the first day of the next year) completed a year, and commences another, . . . since one day of a year is considered to be a (whole) year.' In this case, while the Jewish historian would record that the king had reigned two years, we should say he had reigned only two days."

Before concluding I wish to correct an error in my former communication. The last sentence of the penultimate paragraph should read thus:—"On the contrary, as I stated in a lecture on the Sources of the Nile, delivered in the theatre of the London Institution on the 20th of January, 1864, 'In truth, the whole of the east coast of Africa, from Berenice Panchrysos (the all-golden Berenice) of the Greeks in the north, to Sofalat-edh-Dhabab (the Gold Coast) of the Arabians in the south, is auriferous; and the gold-fields discovered by Herr Mauch appear to be the southernmost extremity of the deposits of the precious metal.' That is to say, Herr Mauch's discovery, made towards the end of 1867, is the realization of my prediction in 1864, which itself, as I have stated, was merely an amplification of that of 1852, repeated in greater detail in 1861.

CHARLES BEKE.

NOTES ON BURGUNDY.

Le Creusot, October, 1868.

Few travellers through Burgundy, and more especially that portion of it purple in the summer's prime with the luscious fruit of the vine, would imagine that it has its Black Country, which, if not so extensive as that which deforms a portion of England, is certainly as noisome and as foul a blot on the fair landscape as ours is. Climb to the crest of the Côte d'Or above Santenay, and there, while resting under noble walnut-trees, which shade the peasants' cottages in that soft and habitable land, you will see, far in the west, the heavens obscured by a dark cloud, which passeth not away, but persistently hangs over the country. That cloud is the smoke from the ironworks of Le Creusot, which, from the small proportions of a local forge, set up in 1769, have grown to be among the most important and extensive in Europe.

Favoured by a letter of introduction to an English Engineer who rents a house near Le Creusot, for the purpose of superintending the construction of a large number of locomotives for the Russian government, I saw the works while visiting the above gentleman to great advantage; and as they are of a very remarkable nature some account of them will, probably, interest your readers. The best and easiest route to Le Creusot is by the railway which branches from the Paris and Lyons line a little south of Beaune, to Montchanin, and from thence by another line communicating with Nevers, which passes close to the works. Between Beaune and Montchanin the country is extremely picturesque, swelling in many places to elevations too lofty for the cultivation of the vine, and clothed principally by woods which form a portion of the great Le Morvan forest. The railway winds amidst the hills, on emerging from which you seem to enter another world, for the country is literally obscured by the volumes of dense smoke pouring from numberless chimneys, while ere the train stops at the station of Le Creusot, you are almost deafened by the uproar of the ponderous engines, steam-hammers and blast-furnaces. Swarthy and dusky figures coming and going take the place of comely peasants seen a few hours before among the vines,—locomotives puff and shriek up and down the railways intersecting the vast works,—huge beams of never-ceasing steam-engines rise and fall, as they raise coal from vast depths,—and above and beyond all this activity, looms the town of Le Creusot, now possessing a population exceeding 25,000 souls, all more or less connected with

the works more than the name sequence and close coverly his Sixteenth age, to w the King disposal of Burgun Shortly a was brow at Le Cre quantitie simultane gave a fr lions whi to the In manufact were for than to the Sixt chiefs of and can the hill v called Le After th hands of various pipes for disposed Manby francs. I —the C lishment one of w in Paris the forg accident brothers ment of Engène French resource gigantic while in they no Provi works of an intel my friend more the for whe whom I thial Cha accosted mious m I was: had no trade, a connect they revident and bo secret c The Le Cre tion of marked names Gaul a 28 per The ve from th thicken The o Creuso furnac as is t not me mines famous Mokta cent. o are no 11. 8s. ually i

the works. And all this is the growth of little more than eighty years. In 1782, Le Creusot bore the name of Charbonnières, given to it in consequence of the discovery of coal near the village and close to the surface of the ground. The discovery having been communicated to Louis the Sixteenth, a company was formed, under his patronage, to work the mine, and as labourers were scarce, the King placed a regiment of soldiers at the disposal of Gauthier, Engineer-in-chief to the States of Burgundy, who was appointed to open the mine. Shortly after, a steam-engine, constructed by Watt, was brought over from England, the cylinder of which is carefully preserved as an interesting relic at Le Creusot. By means of this engine considerable quantities of coal were raised, and the almost simultaneous discovery of iron ore near the coal gave a fresh stimulus to the company. The four lions which peacefully guard the principal entrance to the Institute at Paris were the first products of manufactured iron from Le Creusot; but the works were for many years made more serviceable to war than to the arts or commerce. By order of Louis the Sixteenth, and on his death by that of the chiefs of the Revolution, a great number of cannon and cannon-balls were cast at Le Creusot; and the hill where the guns were proved and tried was called Les Boulets, by which name it is still known. After the Revolution, Le Creusot passed into the hands of the brothers Chagot, under whose direction various ironworks were erected and all the gas-pipes for Paris made. In 1826, the above gentlemen disposed of the works to an English Company—Manby and Wilson—for the sum of 2,620,000 francs. But the concern did not prosper in their hands—the Company collapsed; and in 1837 the establishment was purchased by the Brothers Schneider, one of whom had been long engaged in commerce in Paris, while the other had been trained among the forges of the Ardennes. An unfortunate accident terminated the life of the elder of these brothers in 1845, since which period the management of Le Creusot has been in the hands of M. Eugène Schneider (the well-known President of the French Corps Législatif), who has developed its resources to their present gigantic proportions—how gigantic may be conceived from the fact that while in 1837 the workmen did not exceed 1,000, they now number 11,000!

Provided with an order (without which the works cannot be seen), and under the guidance of an intelligent young English gentleman (a pupil of my friend), I saw all that was interesting, and more than visitors are generally allowed to see; for when in the rolling department, a gentleman, whom I knew from having seen him in the Presidential Chair at the Corps Législatif to be M. Schneider, accosted me, and in a rather abrupt and unceremonious manner stated that I had no business where I was: to which I made reply, that certainly I had no business there—iron-rolling was not my trade, and if, as he assured me, there are secrets connected with the rolling of iron at Le Creusot, they remained secrets to me. The explanation evidently satisfied the great man, for he smiled, and bowing, allowed me to proceed through the secret department with my young guide.

The greater portion of the iron ore worked at Le Creusot is obtained from Mazenay, at the junction of Burgundy and Maconnais. The locality is marked by two remarkable elevations, bearing the names of Rome and Rome, on which the armies of Gaul and Rome often encamped. This ore yields 28 per cent. of iron, and extends over a vast area. The vein, which in no place is more than 130 feet from the surface of the ground, averages 6½ feet in thickness. The present annual yield is 262,000 tons. The ore is conveyed by a special railway to Le Creusot, where it is passed through enormous blast furnaces of the most approved construction. Large as is the supply of iron ore from Mazenay, it does not meet the requirements of Le Creusot, and other mines feed these great works. Among these are the famous Algerian mine of magnetic iron ore at Mokta-el Haddid, which yields no less than 65 per cent. of excellent iron, and of which large quantities are now shipped to Dunkirk, where it is sold at 11. 8s. 10d. per ton. To meet the great and continually increasing demand for steel, enormous works

for carrying on the Bessemer process are being erected, which, when completed, will extend the total area of the works to 357 acres. But perhaps the most impressive department of this establishment is that of the forges, contained in a shed covering no less than 12 hectares (29·65 acres). Here every operation connected with the forging of iron is carried on; 68 steam-hammers and 672 machines of various kinds being set in motion by 85 steam-engines. With respect to the steam-hammers, some of which are of colossal size, it is due to our neighbours to state that they claim the invention of this most useful machine for their countryman M. Bourdon, who took out a patent for its construction in April, 1842, whereas Mr. Nasmyth, to whom the invention is generally attributed, did not, as they say, take out his patent in England until June in the above year, having, moreover, visited Le Creusot between the above months.

The shed containing the workshops for the construction of locomotives, marine and other steam-engines, iron bridges, pontoons, &c., is scarcely inferior in extent to that devoted to the forges. It contains 37 steam-hammers and 567 machines of various kinds. Here I saw locomotives in the course of construction for nearly all the States of Europe, those for Russia being remarkable for their colossal size and ingenious arrangements by which coal or wood may be burnt at pleasure. It is somewhat irritating to see these engines, all of which would, probably, a few years ago have been turned out of English workshops. And looking at the cylinder of Watt's primitive engine, which largely helped Le Creusot in its infancy, one thought of the feather which, falling from the eagle's wing, enabled the archer to kill the bird. But my wounded patriotism was somewhat healed by the statement of a member of an important Sheffield house, who assured me that if England has fewer customers for her goods in Europe now than formerly, the loss is more than compensated for by the opening of new markets in other parts of the world.

The capabilities of Le Creusot are, indeed, now second to no other works of the same nature; and those who have visited Brest, and seen the huge turning balance-bridge at that arsenal, spanning 347 feet, which was made at Le Creusot, will admit that this establishment is able to execute the largest and most elaborate kinds of ironwork. That the flourishing condition of Le Creusot is partly due to the enormous supplies of iron ore and coal at its very door, is unquestionable; but credit must be also given to the admirable management prevalent throughout all the departments. Its large and continually increasing business must also be ascribed, in a great measure, to the fact that the wages of the skilled workmen are below those received by English operatives of the same class. According to the information communicated to me, the wages paid to plate-rollers is 10 francs for ten hours' labour; and first-class workmen engaged on locomotives receive only 5 francs for the same period of time. The average daily wage of all the workmen is now 3 francs 45 cents. Low as these wages are compared with those paid to English artisans in our ironworks, the prices of provisions at Le Creusot are such as to enable the operatives to live comfortably within their incomes. The rent of a house, containing three rooms, varies from 100 to 125 francs per annum; and the average living expenses of a family consisting of three persons is stated to be 11. 50 c. per day. Great facilities are given to the workmen to purchase the houses which they occupy. The average cost of these is 1,800 francs; and at present 2,131 workmen own the houses in which they live. Several excellent, and almost gratuitous, schools exist in the town, the payment exacted being only 75 cents. per head monthly. Boys are taught reading, writing, grammar, arithmetic and drawing; and those who manifest intelligence, and a decided capacity for mechanics, are sent, at the expense of the company, to the High School of Arts and Métiers at Aix, from whence they are drafted to Le Creusot when their education is completed.

My notes respecting this remarkable establishment would enable me to easily enlarge this letter, but I must forbear. In conclusion, however, I cannot, in justice to the community under con-

sideration, refrain from noticing the high state of morality and general good behaviour of the population of Le Creusot, exceeding, be it remembered, 25,000. From a statistical document, kindly placed in my hands by a gentleman connected with the works, it appears that during the fifteen years ending 1865, out of the entire population, only 632 persons were sentenced to punishments for crimes, and these were of a very light nature. Drunkenness—that curse of our country—is very rarely seen at Le Creusot; and woman-beating, which disgraces our working communities, is, it may be said, entirely unknown. And although many streets in Le Creusot are by no means lovely in appearance, on no occasion when I passed through them—filled, as they sometimes were, with troops of workmen returning from their daily toil—did I hear such fearful language as almost terrifies a stranger in several of our manufacturing towns, or witness scenes which make many of our streets little better than preparatory schools of ruffianism; while all inquiries were answered with a courtesy and intelligence which places the population of Le Creusot in a most favourable light. C. R. W.

THE HOUSE OF HASTINGS.

THE elder branch of an old historical house has ceased to exist. The young Marquis of Hastings died heirless, on Tuesday last. His life was one well calculated, in its consequences, to point a moral, but not to adorn a tale. There was mingled in him the blood of Plantagenet and of Lady Huntingdon, but the influences of such a possession were not to be traced in his character.

The line dates from Henry the First, who made of his steward Hastings a Baron. In 1375, the last Baron of that line, a minor, was slain, at a tournament at Woodstock. More than four centuries and a half had elapsed, when the Queen, in 1841, restored this barony, in favour of Sir Jacob Astley, a descendant in the female line. But another barony, that of Hastings of Hastings, was created in 1461. The first lord of this branch, the lord whom Richard the Third beheaded, was a male descendant of Hastings, steward to King Henry. His grandson George was, in 1529, created Earl of Huntingdon, a title which had often been conferred on Scottish kings, and once on a foreigner, Guiscard d'Angle, for his life. It was also held by other remarkable persons. It was resigned by one; and, in the fifteenth century, William, Earl of Pembroke, surrendered that dignity for this earldom of Huntingdon. It was on his death, that the coveted earldom was made over to George Hastings. When a thousand masses had been said and sung for the soul of George, in St. Martin's, Leicester, his son and successor, Francis, married the lady who brought with her the blood of Plantagenet, namely, Katharine Pole, daughter of Sir Richard Pole and his wife Margaret, Countess of Salisbury, which Margaret was sole daughter and heir of George, Duke of Clarence, the brother of Edward the Fourth and Richard the Third. This blood so exalted the house of Hastings in the estimation of a foreign sovereign, Ivan Vasilovich, Czar of Muscovy, that he sought the hand of Mary, the daughter of Francis. The lady declined, on hearing that the Czar could put away his wife with or without reason. But the memory of the honour was kept up in the house by a portrait, still existing, of Lady Mary Hastings, with a crown at her feet. It was to her brother Henry, the next Earl of Huntingdon, that Queen Elizabeth gave the manor of Henley-on-Thames, calling him her "beloved kinsman." He was once spoken of as that Queen's successor, and thus a Hastings came within the shadow of the throne. His namesake, who was Earl of Huntingdon from 1604 to 1643, was the happy man at whom women flung themselves for his acceptance. In 1634, there were two ladies bidding for him. "The one," says Garrard, in 'Stratford's Letters,' "the day she is married will lay him down upon a table 20,000*l.*, which she will freely give him. The other offers 500*l.* a year during his life, and 6,000*l.* in money, to go to church and marry her; and then, at the church-door to take their leaves and never see each other after." Such honour was it accounted only to bear the name

of Hastings! The Earl, however, married Elizabeth, daughter of Lord Derby. Their son was the learned and lovable, yet bachelor Lord Hastings, at whose death ninety-eight elegies were published under the title of 'Lachrymæ Musarum,' and among them was the earliest essay in poetry made by Dryden. In 1789 this line became extinct at the death of Francis Hastings, the tenth Earl of Huntingdon. His sister Elizabeth (their mother was the famous Selina, the pious Countess of Huntingdon) inherited the ancient barony and married Francis Rawdon, Earl of Moira. Their son was the Lord Moira who, by desire of his patron, the Prince Regent, was made Marquis of Hastings, and, to enable him to pay his debts, was made Governor-General of India. When a boy, he had been at a commercial school at Hackney, where another pupil, named Shore, taught him book-keeping. Half-a-century later, the school-fellows met again, when the stately Marquis of Hastings called on Shore, Viscount Teignmouth, and ex-governor of India, to take a lesson in governing, as he had done before in double entry! The young Marquis who died on Tuesday was the Governor-General's great-grandson. To enumerate his titles only, would fill this column. He was, for instance, three times an Earl, and twelve times a Baron, besides having a host of other titular dignities. Princes, scholars, soldiers, statesmen, and gallant cavaliers and gentlemen were of his ancestry; and few nobles ever began independent life with a more splendid fortune. It is only five years since he first came before the public, being convicted for fighting a main of cocks in his drawing-room on a Sunday, when six cocks were cruelly killed; and the Marquis was fined 5*l*. In the following year there went to him for wife a lady who was affianced to another lover. Since then, ruin beset his path. Possession after possession fell away from him. His company and course were poor illustrations of the maxim, "Noblesse oblige." The "scratching of the Earl" was the last incident of his life which engaged public attention. His house was desolate. He died with all his household gods shattered around him; and with this hapless lord the elder branch of the line of Hastings has ceased to exist.

Another branch has curiously revived. When the Earldom of Huntingdon became extinct, in 1789, no one supposed that there could be an heir to the honour. Nevertheless, one was found. There happened to be in the barracks at Enniskillen a storekeeper, Mr. Hans Francis Hastings, who became an object of intense interest to a lawyer, Mr. Nugent Bell. Mr. Bell had perhaps heard of a Rev. Theophilus Hastings, who had married a nurse in the Hastings family, in fulfilment of a rash promise that he would do so if he was ever appointed to two livings, of which he ultimately became the incumbent, much to his surprise. This old clergyman was said to be the next heir, but he would prefer no claim. "I won't make Betsy a Countess," he used to say. Now, the Enniskillen storekeeper was his nephew. Mr. Nugent Bell's study of him resulted in making out that Hans Hastings was a descendant of a younger son of the Earl Francis, who wedded with a Plantagenet, and that he was in the line of male succession. Mr. Bell offered to pursue the claim, and to be paid his fees only if he established it. In this he succeeded. The military storekeeper was admitted to the House of Peers in 1819; his son, Francis Hastings, the present Earl of Huntingdon, has worthily borne the title since 1823, and has a married son, through whom this branch of the old house founded by the steward of Henry the First is likely to flourish.

OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP.

The *English Independent*, while remarking that our "sharp and fearless criticism has not only done much for literature, but for religious truth," calls attention to a paragraph in our review of the 'Boyle Lectures,' as indicating a change of tone. Our friendly contemporary—doubtless through some fault in our expression—takes the statement for our own, which we gave as that of the New School of Criticism. We do not wonder at our friend being somewhat "staggered." Our view of the

position in which the New School of Criticism stands towards the Sacred Story was stated at length in the *Athenæum* for January 6, 13, 20 and 27, 1866, in articles devoted to the controversy on a distinct issue.

As the next meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science will be held at Exeter, the citizens have begun to make preparations for the reception of the members by electing Mr. H. S. Ellis mayor. This gentleman was one of the deputation who went from Exeter to the Association meeting at Norwich, for the purpose of inviting the members to visit the West of England.

Our politicians are getting scientific in their illustrations; and so give interest to points which would never be brought forward for themselves. A newspaper says that the disestablishment of the English Church will as surely follow from that of the Irish as the fifth proposition of Euclid follows from the preceding four. Now it so happens that the first three are not necessary, either directly or indirectly, to the fifth, which follows from the fourth alone. We ask two questions, one political, one geometrical. First, is it prudent to be so very sure that if the Irish Church be sent to Dis—which is a classical name of the unmentionable—the English Church must follow? Secondly, why is the fifth proposition called the *Pons Asinorum*? And where is the designation first announced? The diagram resembles the framework of an old bridge, especially of a draw-bridge. And what is the meaning? The usual interpretation is, that the proposition is the point which an ass cannot get over: but a bridge is a help, not an impediment.

For the help of those who may have to inquire what has become of rare books and MSS. offered for sale by auction on the breaking up of choice libraries, we mention that all the sale catalogues of Messrs. Sotheby & Co., with the names of the purchaser of each lot marked against it, are, and have long been, sent to the British Museum, where they are, of course, accessible to inquirers. The comfort that this is to a man may be well conceived when he has traced a long-desired volume up to Mr. Blank's possession, and then feels hopelessly lost when he finds that the Blank library was sold in —.

Among the year-books crowding our table we may announce the Messrs. De La Rue's Indelible Diaries, in half-a-dozen convenient forms.—'The Lady's Diary,' very pretty and dainty, making a handsome card-case,—the 'Memorandum' book, our own pocket companion through the year,—the 'Red Letter Diary,' for the desk—the 'Calendar,' suitable for any pocket, and two or three others; the 'Farmer's Almanac' (Ridgway),—the 'Farmer's Almanac' (Thorley), both professional; 'Tom Toddlers' Comic Almanac,' a piece of Yorkshire drollery; Messrs. Cassell's 'Illustrated Almanac,' a picture-book of the usual sort; and Mr. Fulcher's 'Ladies' Memorandum Book,' a poetical Miscellany produced by the Muses of East Anglia, an aged friend, full of a pleasant weakness and an elegant debility.

The *Echo*, the new evening paper, will be printed by two of Marinoni's machines, which are said to be capable of producing 80,000 copies an hour.

Mr. Stanford has issued a Guide-map to the Constituencies which will be useful to many persons during the pending elections. It is constructed according to the new Act, and shows, not only the new distribution of political power, but the names of all candidates yet announced.

The celebrated Committee of the Commons on the Longitude was in June, 1714; the project of Whiston and Ditton was heard, and evidence taken. Their tract was published in the same year, probably about June. But the first announcement of this plan, now thought so impracticable, was probably in July, 1713. In a number (107, July 14, 1713) of the *Guardian*, written by Addison, is a letter signed by Whiston and Ditton (dated the 11th), announcing the existence of their method, which they will communicate as soon as they are assured that no other person will be able to claim the reward for it: themselves desiring no reward until Newton and other competent persons should

have approved of it. The letter is genuine, without irony, and beyond Addison in its handling of astronomical language. There is not the least symptom of an editorial joke, nor was the time come at which such a thing would have been intelligible. The letter in question has this effect: it introduces the name of Newton into a writing of Addison. So separated were literature and science in that day that the mere mention of Newton by Addison, Swift or Steele is of the utmost rarity. If we look into Brewster's 'Life of Newton,' we shall become sensible of the value of Boswell's art. Addison and Newton must have met often, at the house of Lord Halifax, if nowhere else; but it is not on record that they ever exchanged a word. Addison occurs twice in Brewster's Index, and we get the information that he delivered an address on Des Cartes at Oxford, and that Garth cited Halley's authority against Christianity. And this is all the connexion between Addison and Newton which the book affords.

When Mr. Blades reprinted Caxton's very rare tract, 'The Gouernayle of Helthe, with The Medecyne of y^e Stomacke,' from Lord Dysart's copy, he was not aware that at the public library, Cambridge, was a MS. of the Gouernayle. Just to add one to the list of MSS. mentioned in Mr. Blades's excellent 'Illustrative Remarks,' we mention that there is a MS. at Cambridge, in which the treatise is called 'Liber de Bone Gouernance' (Cat. iv. 17); but it has not the short Introduction that Caxton's version has, and is evidently a careless copy of the text, omitting words necessary to the sense, that are in Caxton, and the other MSS. One piece of advice we extract, for the benefit of those people who indulge now in four meals a day: "Bytwene two etynges, xi houres to be, is profytable; and so ete thries in two dayes, as to-daye twyes, and to-morrow but ones; and so to continue forth." Of the second tract in the book, the 'Medecyne of y^e Stomacke,' which is so continually attributed to Lydgate, an earlier version than Caxton's had been printed by Mr. Halliwell from the Harl. MS. 2251 in 1840, in his 'Minor Poems of Dan John Lydgate,' for the Percy Society. Though Mr. Blades notices this MS., he does not notice Mr. Halliwell's print of it, nor five MSS. of the poem that Mr. Halliwell mentions. Mr. Blades, however, notices three MSS. that Mr. Halliwell does not, and among them the Lansdowne, 699, which contains a very interesting poem, stuck on to Lydgate's. Lastly, Mr. Furnivall printed this year from a MS. unknown to both the former editors, the Lambeth, 853, the earliest version of the poem that has yet appeared, side by side with its Latin original ('Babes Book,' page 54-8). But Caxton's print, about 1491 A.D., and Mr. Blades's reprint of 1858 (of fifty-five copies only), were unknown to the latest editor, as also the Lansdowne MS., 699, and two other of Mr. Blades's MSS. He, however, added Harl. 5401 to the list of MSS. Trin. Coll. Camb. B 11, 24, is another; and there must be many more.

Are we about to have rivalry in matters sanitary? London has long had its health-officers; and now Manchester, Liverpool, Birkenhead, Salford, Leeds and Bristol have chosen officers of health who, it is to be hoped, will not be tolerant of nuisances, squalor, or occasions of disease of whatever kind. To show the clearest bill of health would be a result worth striving for; and if the towns here named will compete for that honour, their well-being will become an example and constitute their recompense.

Mr. Scott, the director of the Weather Office, has announced that storm-news has been regularly flashed by telegraph to the North German Sea Observatory at Hamburg since the end of last January; and that Mr. Von Freeden, director of the Observatory, intends in future to hoist the drum-signal at Hamburg and Cuxhaven to give warning of the approach of storms. This signal will have the same meaning as at British stations.

Nations as well as individuals like to know how they are getting on. The Registrar-General tells us that in the middle of the present year the population of the United Kingdom numbered 30,369,345, to which total England contributes more than

21,000,000 land moi- ending Su- tion in l- deducted.

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21,000,000, Scotland more than 3,000,000, and Ireland more than 5,000,000. During the quarter ending September 30, the daily increase of population in England was 673, from which must be deducted, also daily, 217 emigrants.

The Rev. H. N. Grimley, M.A., Head Master of the Skipton Grammar School, Yorkshire, proposes that the endowments of our numerous grammar schools should be increased and used for the education of girls as well as boys. Drawing our attention to an address which he has recently delivered to some of his neighbours, he says, "I bring forward suggestions with regard to the establishment of grammar schools for girls. I attempt to show how such schools could be to some extent worked in connexion with the existing grammar schools for boys; and how, by means of the increased staff of teachers brought into any town by the establishment of such a school for girls, more satisfactory arrangements could be made than at present, for providing adults with the literary and technical instruction now so much demanded." The schoolmaster, of course, does not propose that the education should be gratuitous, or in any respect eleemosynary, for it would be offered to a class whose members for the most part neither need nor would accept charitable aid in the discharge of their parental duties; but though the new school-rooms for girls would be worked for the commercial benefit of the teachers, he thinks that whatever buildings may be required for the new classes, should be purchased at the public cost and handed over to the dealers in knowledge. In accordance with this notion of the fitness of things, Mr. Grimley asks the people of Skipton to build him a house in which he may follow the vocation of a teacher of girls for his private advantage. Why should the people of Skipton be more generous to their schoolmaster than to their doctors or merchants or local journalists? So far as education is concerned, Mr. Grimley merely proposes to do in the provinces what teachers of children have already done in most of our large towns which possess colleges, i.e. schools, at which girls of gentlepeople are received as day-pupils, and are mainly taught by masters whose attainments and tutorial qualifications greatly surpass those of ordinary governesses. In London, those scholastic establishments are so numerous that they may be counted by hundreds; and notwithstanding the dearth of house accommodation in the Metropolis, their proprietors never dream of asking the public to set them up in business with convenient premises. Surely, what is done in London, where rents are high, may be accomplished in provincial towns, where rents are low.

The announced inedited work of Hugo Grotius 'De Jure Prædæ,' has made its appearance at the Hague.

Der Salon, a German magazine, whose appearance we announced some time ago, has just finished its first two volumes and issued the first number of the third. Being conducted and made up in the very best style, it has achieved a remarkable success, and may be said to be, at present, one of the most influential as well as widely-circulated of German monthlies. Almost the whole range of modern German literature represents itself to us in the pages of *Der Salon*; and as we look over the volumes before us, we gather among its chief contributors the names of Emanuel Geibel, Paul Heyse, Karl Gutzkow, Friedrich Spielhagen, Gottfried Kinkel, Anastasius Grün, and many more "known to fame." Julius Rodenberg's new novel 'Von Gottes Gnaden,' a tale of Cromwell's time, will be continued in the third volume. Altogether we may recommend *Der Salon* to the English student desirous to read a pure and undefiled German, and to be instructed about the movements going on in German literature, art and society.

A bill has been laid on the table of the Dutch legislature, for abolishing, after the 1st of May, 1869, the now existing heavy tax on newspapers and advertisements. The law of 1843, which still oppresses Dutch journalism, is simply intolerable. In 1866 an anti-newspaper-stamp league was formed in Rotterdam, and it rapidly spread all over the country. Its influence is considerable, and caused, no doubt, the present measure to be introduced. In

no country of the world is the tax on papers and advertisements so excessively heavy as in the Netherlands. We sincerely hope for its suppression, as the "tax on knowledge" is totally unworthy of a free state.

There will soon be an interesting auction in Amsterdam of the works of Nic. Piensman, who was in his lifetime one of the best painters of the modern Dutch school, and chiefly excelled in portraits.

The audience of the New Vaudeville Theatre, in Brussels, had a narrow escape a few nights ago. Some unusual caprices in the gas caused a few persons to leave the house. The majority remained, and their feelings were vividly aroused by the sudden fall of the curtain before the end of the piece, and the appearance of the manager, who begged all present to leave the house immediately, as an explosion was apparently imminent. At this juncture the gas was turned off altogether, and the alarmed people had to struggle out of the theatre as they best could. It is greatly to their credit that, in spite of the prevailing terror, every one escaped without injury. Had there been a stampede the loss of life would, probably, have been very great. As it was, some ladies only lost their cloaks, or got separated from their parties: this, with the difficulty of reaching home for those whose carriages had not arrived, formed the sum of a mischance that might have swollen into calamity. Very dashing and fearless young ladies went, in perfect confidence, on the following evening to the Opera, satisfied that such a fright could not visit them two nights running.

Intelligence comes from Melbourne to the effect that a large and influential company has been formed in that city for developing the resources of the islands in the South Pacific which may be said to be now running to waste. It is proposed to commence operations in the Feejee group, which are only twelve days' steam from Melbourne.

The sheep-farmers in Australia have a shrewd eye for business. Some of the leading men among them have recently spent considerable sums of money in the construction of apparatus for sheep-washing with hot water. From water at a temperature of 110°, into which they are first plunged, the sheep are floated to a tank of cold water, where the cleansing is completed with a kind of douche. So much grease is taken out of the fleeces by this process, that henceforth Yorkshire will be willing to give a better price for the wool.

We hear from Buenos Ayres that a company had been formed, with the sanction of the Government, to export live cattle to Europe; the endeavours to establish a trade in dried and cooked meat not having succeeded. For this new enterprise seven large steamers are to be built in England, fitted to carry 1,200 head of cattle each, to distil 8,000 gallons of sea-water every day, and to accomplish the voyage from the River Plate to England in twenty-five days. If the Argentine Republic can carry this project into execution, hundreds of mouths in England will be ready to thank it for so tangible a solution of what statisticians call our "food question." Meanwhile, our Australian colonies complain of being oppressed by superabundance of mutton, and are exerting much ingenuity to discover ways of preserving meat in a thoroughly palatable condition, and of sending it in large quantities to the English market. It can hardly be that the attempts to bring the meat to the mouths will always fail; and now that we are to have two sources of supply, we may hope that rivalry will produce success.

The Turkish Press in London has undergone a modification. There is again only one paper. The paper first started by Young Turkey was the *Mukhbir*. The editor of this was Ali Suavi Effendi, a member of the professional class (lawyer and ecclesiastic), and only in opposition because he was an old Tory. He is a man of considerable attainments in Oriental literature, history, law and theology, has acquired the French, and, to some extent, the English language, and is the author of some translations into Turkish. His supporters of Young Turkey, besides contributing money, contributed articles, but the combination of old Toryism with their ultra-Liberalism was little to their taste,

and they therefore set up in London another paper, called the *Hurriyet*, or *Liberty*, and the editorship was undertaken by H. E. Aghiah Effendi, late Director-General of Posts, and editor of a suppressed popular paper. Now the *Mukhbir* has been stopped. The *Mukhbir* made a great sensation in Constantinople, where it was smuggled; but the *Hurriyet*, though politically more violent, creates less excitement. The conductors tried to make Paris their centre, having French sympathies, but found the political atmosphere of London was safer. Thus, strangely enough, London is a centre of propagandism against the governmental system of the Sublime Porte; and yet there are Englishmen in Constantinople still alive who remember the Janissaries in all their seditious, and the booming of the guns on the day of their massacre and suppression.

THE SOCIETY OF PAINTERS in WATER COLOURS.—The SEVENTH ANNUAL WINTER EXHIBITION OF SKETCHES AND STUDIES by the MEMBERS will OPEN on MONDAY, November 23rd, at their Gallery, 5, Pall Mall East. WILLIAM CALLOW, Secretary.

SIXTEENTH ANNUAL WINTER EXHIBITION OF CABINET PICTURES by BRITISH and FOREIGN ARTISTS is NOW OPEN at the French Gallery, 120, Pall Mall, from Half-past Nine till Half-past Five o'clock.—Admission, 1s.; Catalogue, 6d.

EXHIBITION OF CABINET PICTURES in OIL.—Dudley Gallery, Egyptian Hall, Piccadilly.—The Exhibition is OPEN Daily from Ten till Six.—Admission, 1s.; Catalogue, 6d. GEORGE L. HALL, Hon. Sec.

PICTURES and WATER-COLOUR DRAWINGS of the British and Foreign Schools of Painting selected with great care from the studios of the different Artists. In calling attention to these, T. McLean has great satisfaction in soliciting a visit from Collectors and others to inspect them.—T. McLEAN'S NEW GALLERY, 7, Haymarket, next the Theatre.

MR. MOREY'S COLLECTION OF MODERN HIGH-CLASS PICTURES is ON VIEW at the Royal Exchange Fine Arts Gallery, 14, Cornhill. This Collection contains examples of Rosa Bonheur—Clarkson Standfield, R.A.—Meissonier—Alma Tadema—Gérôme—Frère—Landelle—T. Fied, R.A.—John Phillip, R.A.—Leslie, R.A.—D. Roberts, R.A.—Frith, R.A.—Goodall, R.A.—Cooke, R.A.—Pickersell, R.A.—Erskine Nicol, A.R.A.—Le Jeune, A.R.A.—Ansell, A.R.A.—Frost, A.R.A.—Pettie, A.R.A.—Kenner, A.R.A.—Dobson, A.R.A.—Cooper, A.R.A.—Gale—Marks—Liddell—George Smith—Lincoln, sen.—Peter Graham—Oakes—H. W. B. Davis—Baxter. Also Drawings by Hunt, Cox, Birket Foster, Duncan, Topham, F. Walker, E. Warren, &c.—Admission on presentation of address card.

AN EARTHQUAKE IN ENGLAND.—New Lecture, by J. L. King, Esq., 'On Earthquakes and Volcanoes,' Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday, 2 and 7.30.—Prof. Pepper's Lecture on 'The Solar Eclipse Seen in India,' Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 2 and 7.30.—New Electric Organ, daily at 2 and 7.30, by Herr Schalkenbach.—'La Belle France and the Maid of Orleans,' daily 4 and 9, by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Cooke.—An Old German Story of alleged Spiritual Visitation, entitled, 'The Spectre Barber,' with Marvellous Effects.—At the ROYAL POLYTECHNIC.

SCIENCE

SOCIETIES.

GEOGRAPHICAL.—Nov. 9.—Sir R. I. Murchison, Bart., President, in the chair.—The following gentlemen were elected Fellows: Messrs. D. Griffin, Alexis de Lomonosoff, L. Shirley, C.E., and Dr. A. E. Mackay, R.N.—The President opened the Session 1868-9 with a few remarks on events of geographical interest which had occurred since the last meeting in June. He expressed his deep regret at the destruction of the wings and arcades of Burlington House, by which the Society had lost the capacious hall for its meetings, so long granted by the Royal Society and the University of London. During the summer, researches had been carried on in deep-sea soundings in the Atlantic, and into the nature of the sea-bottom, currents and submarine life, some of the results of which would be communicated to the Royal Society by Dr. Carpenter. Dr. Livingstone had been heard of down to December 14, 1867. He was then in Casembe, but in two days would depart for Ujiji, on the eastern shores of Lake Tanganyika, whither stores and a fresh supply of medicines had been sent, from Zanzibar, to meet him. He had found at the southern end of the lake a string of smaller lakes, connected by a river bearing different names. Next in interest to this subject, were recent journeys in Central Asia, especially in the vast elevated tract lying beyond the north-western bend of the River Indus. Here lay the Pamir Steppe, or as it was called "the roof of the world," in which the Oxus, the Zafshan, and other rivers took their rise, and near which the Kuen-lun, the Himalaya, and the Hindoo Koosh radiate. The President remarked on the desirability of friendly co-operation between our own and the Russian Govern-

ments in exploring the geography and trade routes between the populous cities of Kashgar and Yarkand and the Russian and Indian territories. The paper read was, 'On Trade Routes between Turkestan and India,' by Major-General Sir H. C. Rawlinson. The author stated that the great Karakorum range of the Indian Caucasus, hitherto considered an almost insurmountable obstacle to traffic between the populous region of Central Asia and India, had been recently shown to be transitable, even by laden camels. The route on leaving Leh, in Little Tibet, instead of ascending the Karakorum Pass, lay past the western end of Lake Pangong and up the Changchenmo valley to the Karakash river, thence following its banks, past Shadula to Ichi and Yarkand. This route had lately been described by Mr. T. Douglas Forsyth, and it had been also pointed out by Mr. Johnson, the Indian surveyor, in 1861. Mr. Johnson, when he crossed the Kuen-lun, heard of another route further to the east, by Changthang, passable to Leh by wheeled vehicles. The populations of Eastern Turkestan, having shaken off the Chinese yoke, were seeking new outlets for trade. At present, tea had to perform a journey of 5,000 miles (by Bombay, Bokhara, and Kokand) to reach them, whereas if the new route described were opened, it would have to travel only 500. Mr. Hayward, a gentleman travelling under the auspices of the Royal Geographical Society, had recently sent home a copy of the itinerary of a Yarkand merchant, who had traversed the route from Yarkand over the Pamir Steppe, past the sources of the Oxus and over the Chitral Pass to Jelalabad and Peshawur. This was the first information we had had of this route, since the journey of Benedict Goetz in the sixteenth century, whose account could be turned to little use even by the learned Col. Yule in his 'Cathay and the Way thither,' but was now rendered quite intelligible. It was the route alluded to by Ptolemy, quoting from Marinus of Tyre, and described by Marco Polo. Two lower passes lay between Yarkand and the Pamir Steppe, and the third or highest pass (Chitral) was passable by carts during nine months in the year. The author when at Jelalabad twenty-six years ago had ascended for a short distance the Chitral valley, which opens towards the Cabul river, and it was there termed the "Gate of Turkestan," as indeed it proved to be.

ARCHEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE.—Nov. 6.—The Very Rev. Canon Rook in the chair.—This was the opening meeting of the session, and the Chairman made some general observations, especially in reference to the success of the meeting at Lancaster, and announcing that the next year's Congress would be held at Bury St. Edmunds.—The Rev. J. Fuller Russell read a paper, 'On the Painted Glass in Fairford Church, Gloucester, and its Claim to be considered the work of Albert Dürer.'

INSTITUTE OF BRITISH ARCHITECTS.—Nov. 2.—Mr. W. Tite, M.P., President, delivered an inaugural address. The topics touched upon were the increasing success of the Institute, the total number of the Fellows and Associates being, in May last, 623; a review of the papers of the last session which, though not numerous, he said were of great value and practical importance to the profession at large; and the proceedings in connexion with the competitions for the New National Gallery and the Law Courts, and he gave a detailed account of all that had occurred on those matters. He referred in eulogistic terms to the Thames Embankment, a work of which, he said, England might well be proud, as also to the great Hotels, the Railway Station of the Midland Railway Company, at St. Pancras, and the New St. Thomas's Hospital, the progress of which he said was highly satisfactory; and, altogether, he thought they were fast redeeming the metropolis from the criticism of Evelyn, who characterized it as the ugliest city in Europe for its size.

LINNEAN.—Nov. 5.—G. Bentham, Esq., President, in the chair.—Mr. Busk exhibited, on the part of Sir R. I. Murchison, Bart., a specimen of a sort of Silky Web, found lining the inner surface

of the hatches of the steamer Onward, which had brought a cargo of Indian corn from Trieste to London. Various suggestions were offered as to the insect by which this substance had been produced, Mr. Stainton thinking it probable that it was the work of *Tinea granella*.—Mr. Redhead exhibited a specimen, in fruit, of *Calcita macrocarpa*, Presl., found (as he believed, for the first time on the main land of Europe) by Mr. W. Glassford, at Algeiras, near Gibraltar.—Mr. W. G. Smith exhibited fresh specimens of two new British Hymenopterous Fungi, *Hydnum nigrum* and *Lactarius controversus*.—An extensive and valuable series of specimens of Gum Copal from Eastern Africa (including some with insects imbedded) was exhibited on the part of Dr. Kirk, who had communicated to the Society at the previous meeting, a paper 'On the Copals of Zanzibar.'—The following papers were read, 'Characters of a new Genus, consisting of two species, of Parasitic Gentianæ,' by Dr. Asa Gray, and 'On the Natural History and Mode of Hunting the Beaver (*Castor Canadensis*, Kuhl.), on the Pacific Slope of the Rocky Mountains,' by Mr. A. H. Green, with 'Supplementary Notes,' by Mr. R. Brown.—Also, a letter from the Rev. L. Jenyns, referring to the note by Sir John Lubbock, in No. 43 of the Society's Journal, 'On the Discovery of *Planaria terrestris* in England,' and calling attention to the fact that he had himself, in his 'Observations in Natural History,' published in 1846, described the same animal under the name of "Ground Fluke," as common in damp woods in Cambridgeshire, and expressed his belief of its identity with the *Pasciola terrestris* of Müller. Mr. Jenyns further stated, that the animal also occurs in woods about Bath, where many specimens had been collected during the last summer.

ENTOMOLOGICAL.—Nov. 2.—Mr. H. W. Bates, President, in the chair.—The following were exhibited:—By Mr. S. Stevens, *Sphinx celerio*, captured at Brighton in September, and a moth from the British collection of the late Mr. Desvignes labelled "Immoraria, Hub.," which, it was suggested, was a variety of *Strenia clathrata*,—by the President, on behalf of Mr. E. Birchall, some dwarf specimens of *Vanessa urtica* and *Zygema filipendule*, from the Isle of Man,—by Mr. Fryer, *Scoparia Zelleri* and *Agrypnia picta*,—by Mr. T. G. Briggs, a *Leucania*, captured at Folkestone in August, which did not seem referable to any known British species,—by Mr. Davis, about sixty-five species of larvae of British Lepidoptera, preserved for the cabinet,—by Mr. G. S. Mosse, a collection of Insects, chiefly Lepidoptera, from New York.—Letters were read from Mr. J. Wilson, of Woolwich, announcing the breeding of a gynandromorphous specimen of *Lasiocampa quercus*,—from Mr. A. Müller, of Penge, requesting the aid of entomologists in the preparation of a descriptive list of the galls or excrescences on plants caused by insect-agency,—from Mr. R. W. Feraday, of Christ Church, New Zealand, requesting contributions of British insects with a view to the formation of a collection for the museum there,—from Mr. H. L. Schrader, of Shanghai, containing some miscellaneous observations on various insects,—and from Mr. R. Trimen, of Cape Town, respecting an orthopterous insect occasionally found in gardens about Cape Town, and probably belonging to the genus *Anostostoma*.—The following papers were read:—'Observations on some South African Butterflies enumerated in Mr. A. G. Butler's Catalogue of Satyridæ in the collection of the British Museum,' by Mr. R. Trimen,—'Descriptions of New Genera and Species of Heteromera,' by Mr. F. Bates,—and 'Contributions to a Knowledge of European Trichoptera,' Part I., by Mr. R. M'Lachlan.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

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| Mos. | Asiatic, 3.—'Maṅgar Dialect of Nepal,' Mr. Beames. |
| — | Entomological, 7. |
| — | Royal Academy, 8.—'Anatomy,' Mr. Partridge. |
| — | Architects, 8. |
| Tues. | Horticultural, 3.—General Meeting. |
| — | Statistical, 8.—'Metallic Currency and International Coins,' Prof. Jevons. |
| — | Mathematical, 8.—'Listing on Polyhedra,' Prof. Cayley. |
| — | 'Discriminants,' Dr. Henrici. |
| — | Engineers, 8.—'Lighthouse Apparatus,' Mr. Henderson. |
| — | Anthropological, 8. |
| Wed. | Literature, 8.—'Colloquial Speech in English,' Dr. Ingley; 'Perpetual Snows, Abyssinia,' Mr. Hogg. |

THURS. LINNEAN, 8.—'Parnassia palustris,' Mr. Bennett; 'Ariacus from Ceylon,' Rev. M. J. Berkeley and Mr. Broome; 'Chemical Reaction in Lichens,' Dr. Lindley.

— Royal, 8.

— Antiquaries, 8.

FRI. Philological, 8.—'Greek Digamma,' Prof. Goldschmidt; 'Dative in Anglo-Saxon, &c.,'—'A Passage in Cædmon,' Mr. Morris.

FINE ARTS

WINTER EXHIBITION AT THE DUDLEY GALLERY.

TEN admirable pictures distinguish this gathering and honour their painters. A second ten are excellent and delight the eye. A third ten are much above the average. Two hundred more are of an account except as dull or unpleasant pieces of furniture. The balance of thirty or so, which make up the 344 paintings here, are more or less fine, but add nothing to their producers' honours because they are better represented. Thus, Mr. Mason sends four admirable pictures, either of which will stand him in stead, so with Messrs. H. Moore, C. P. Knight, and others. There is nothing new in these proportions of fine, good, and bad, yet we have heard for years the cry for more room at every exhibition. Surely a higher standard would hardly fill half the space of our Royal Academy Exhibition, yet double the whole is soon to be given. Why not, by raising the standard, save our money in building and our time in looking?

The ten fine representative pictures may come first here: of these the most noteworthy is *Les Demoiselles du Mois de Marie* (No. 336), by Mr. Legros, a man whose artistic growth we have noted from year to year, and particularly at a startling point in respect to the changed positions of a certain "Martyrdom of St. Stephen," from above a Royal Academy door to the most honourable walls of the Luxembourg. Such are hanging committees; such are the ups and downs of a picture! The present work is more than worthy of the artist. It represents a well-known May scene, in France. Half a score of young women are seated in a grim, grey-slate, lately-restored Norman church, and form a choir, in training under the guidance of an old monk, who sits at their head. The sanguine-hued apparels of his cope, laid upon white as they are, give the sole high note of colour to the picture, where all else is sobered with grey, green, black and blue, and dashed with white here and there. Withal, this is a richly-coloured painting, a very learned and subtle study in low but melodious tints; hence, it is no less pathetic in this respect than in the faces of the women, not one of whom is a beauty, while all are sweet, tender, pious, and lovable.—What Mr. Legros has done in this sober, severe, and pathetic fashion, Mr. Donaldson has been trying to do by other and more attractive means,—see his *Choir Practice* (No. 250), which is one of our noteworthy ten pictures here, not without merits of a high sort, still far removed in Art and feeling from the foregoing: Mr. Donaldson deals vigorously with crimsons, hot browns, full-toned blacks and flashing whites; this is no slight achievement. Four choir boys practise in the vestry of a church, they are all on fire in crimson surplices; the very accessories about the picture are as showy as in a church of the Jesuits; a choir-master leads; two monks take the deeper musical notes; a violinist and a bass-player are musical for the party. Looking into this work one cannot help seeing that, with all its richness and splendour, its art is of the agonized order, full of pretence, obvious and without repose; even the ill-placed lines of the pavement are frightful in their forms, and unmitigated by artistic tact. The drawing is very bad indeed.

In Mr. Marks's picture, *Tired Out* (237)—a gentleman "of the olden time," being oppressed by heat and fatigue, sleeps in a chair. He sleeps to the life. Some ducks waddle into the chamber, curious about its quietude, we suppose: such is the way of their kind. The Jacobian clock on its bracket on the wall ticks steadily, heedless of man and ducks; the farmyard, seen through the open doorway, basks in the afternoon sun. With these not very effective materials for a subject, Mr. Marks has produced his best picture that is known to the public as yet. It is warmer in colour, softer in handling, and, to say the whole truth, much more thoroughly painted than before. We would rather

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have it than even the admirable 'Franciscan Sculptor and his Model,' the gargoyles-carver and his sister, of a few years since. This is saying much. As we are writing of works of Art proper, the mere material with which craft deals need not trouble us. Choir-boys, maidens at their prayerful singing, a sleeping squire, or old clothes hung out to dry,—what matters it?

Let us then turn to Mr. Mason's little piece of jewelry in art (192), which has for subject, if the reader will, a sheet and an old blue dress, hung out to dry in a slatternly garden, with a bald gable at the back, and, beyond, a dimly-seen bit of moorland. He calls it—as good a name as need be—*A Sketch from Nature*. Such it is, but of the art artistic, and, rather than what we commonly call a sketch, an outcome of masterly study by a hand and eye of fine natural force, and trained for years patiently and heartily. We have seen whole exhibitions, each a thousand pictures strong, which contained little of what is here in abundance. English critics have been crying out for art as if there had been none since Reynolds died. We reply, here are the works of Messrs. Mason and Legros, artists. We have but space enough to mention the three remaining works of Mr. Mason; *Sketch from Nature* (87)—a barren moor that is strewn with slaty rocks, the roofs of a line of houses, and the heads of a few starving trees, which come against a very delicately-tinted sky; a third *Sketch from Nature* (206), and a fourth picture, with the same modest title (234).—Few figure-pictures here surpass Mr. Boughton's *Penance* (161)—a nun, who kneels for punishment at the outer door of a cloister in a snowy night.—*The Vicar's Daughter* (152), by Mr. G. D. Leslie, is painted in his pleasantest and sweetest manner, which is saying a great deal: a young lady catechizes a parish-school urchin as she sits on the steps of a sun-dial in an old-fashioned garden. Mr. E. Crowe's *Frères Ignorantins* (139) is incomparably his best picture, whether as regards colour, lighting, or character: a long line of black-robed brethren defiles through the street at Chateaufort, the birth-place of Voltaire, the peculiar enemy of their order, and, as they go, regard, or obstinately disregard, the high placed bust of the philosopher of Ferney. Their expressions of disgust, contempt, shame, anger and pain are given with remarkable power and wealth in studies. The whole work is admirably contrived.—No. 133, Mr. A. Ditchfield's *Cattle Grazing*, all as one, and in a flat, with monumental poplars further off, is a piece of Puritanical-looking art; but below the dry surface is much feeling for grandeur, with colour and gravity in design. The sky here is particularly fine.—Mr. Yeames's picture, *Daily Occupations* (73), stands at the point between our first and second decades of fine works. It represents a young lady waiting at the door of a house, with a basket of flowers at her feet, and in the act of reading a note. This work is over-literal in painting; yet, such being the mode adopted, the artist has succeeded admirably, and some of the defects of that mode are got over with rare skill: see the treatment of the stiff, angular tiles on the floor. The flowers look brilliant. Why, however, adopt such a mode? This is a subject which suited Leslie and De Hooghe, and the picture recalls both.—Mr. H. Moore's *Penmaen Bach and the Great Orme's Head* (39) is one of the most enjoyable landscapes here. It has a grand effect of clouds and sea; the treatment of the receding line of the beach is exquisitely true, as it lies under faint shadows and wan light.

The ten pictures of our second class are Mr. H. Wallis's *Moorland* (3)—a girl crossing a brook and beckoning a child to follow; behind, the long, blue, sweeping lines of rolling land in twilight. A beautiful picture, the sky of which is peculiarly poetical, although it needs clearness and transparency to be perfect.—Mr. A. Goodwin's *Littlehampton* (2), which is rich in colour,—the same artist's *Harvest Moon* (210).—*The Thames at Chelsea* (104), by Mr. Hemy,—*Tonnetto* (47), by Miss Augusta Wells, a charming study of a girl's head in a Breton cap, very delicate and sound in colour and modelling.—*Highland Outfield* (52), by Mr. C. P. Knight, a brilliant study of a field of young corn in sunlight, with distant mountains; see also,

by the same, the sound and true *Falmouth* (186).—Mr. G. Mawley's *A Canal, Evening*, (68), reminds us, from a distance, of M. Daubigny's similar pictures; it shows vaporous evening on a canal, with slow horses on the path haling a barge towards a lock, and with little noise: a work that is very delicate and true, although in need of some solidity.—*Tropical Birds* (90), by Mr. W. J. Webb, is a pleasant and potent study in colour.—*A Street Sermon* (266), by Mr. A. H. Tourrier, a preacher interrupted by a sportive cavalier as he discourses to the passers by, with many minor incidents, is full of character and humour, but so deficient in painting that one wishes it had been simply drawn.—*A Roman Lady with a Votive Urn* (82), by Mr. S. Solomon, is, notwithstanding its flatness, a fine work.

Among other paintings deserving of study on different accounts are Mr. Topham's *Venetians* (46), which is rather flimsy and unreal with all its charm.—*On the Beach, Hastings*, (86) by Mr. G. L. Hall.—*In my Garden* (96), by Mr. D. W. Wynfield.—*Le Chapeau Noir* (105), by Mr. J. Burr, a boy's figure.—Mr. Stocks's *From the Court of Queen Elizabeth* (163), a bold, but rather rough half-length of a lady in apt costume. We consider G. R. Chapman's pretending picture of a woman in a yellow dress.—*The Golden Witch* (57), as gaudy, tawdry, and ill-drawn beyond the common of a borrowed mode in art and thinking; one of those pictures which provoke laughter at the class it discredits.—Mr. Armitage's *Paquerelle* (140) is, at least, masculine, if not fine and grand. We have to note with pleasant memories Mr. J. W. Oakes's *Fifful Weather* (291), a fine study of landscape. Also among the worthy, Mr. M. F. Halliday's *Little Florence* (168); Mr. Naish's *The Skipper's Pet* (315); three pictures by Mr. Smallfield; and one by Mr. R. S. Stanhope, a rich study of *Florence* (225).

FINE-ART GOSSIP.

THE private view of the Corinthian Exhibition, Argyle Street, Regent Street, takes place to-day (Saturday). The Gallery will be opened to the public on Monday next.

Mr. G. G. Scott's lectures on 'Architecture,' at the Royal Academy, will be delivered on the 4th, 11th, 18th, and 25th of March next.

The Wedgwood Memorial Institute, at Burslem, which is characteristically and richly decorated with ceramic works, is to be opened, at Easter next, with a Fine-Art exhibition.

The first meeting of the Graphic Society was held on Wednesday evening at University College. The attendance was rather slack, and the exhibition hardly up to the average of excellence.

Another "terrific explosion at a gas-works," this time at Rochdale, has added force to the gathering conviction that these dangerous and deleterious factories must be banished from our great towns. They have been banished from Paris: the sooner they are removed from London the better for all concerned. The probabilities of "terrific explosions" at the works in the Horseferry Road, Westminster, which are near the Houses of Parliament and the Abbey, or in the enormous factory by the Temple, which is in the very heart of London, and no great way from St. Paul's, are things to be thought about.

Some very interesting statues have recently been placed in the Egyptian Saloon, British Museum. Also, in a table-case, which stands in the centre of that hall, a picture said to represent the Pharaoh's Daughter who rescued Moses.

We have received from Mr. G. F. Teniswood a very effective photograph from a picture which was exhibited at the Royal Academy this year, entitled 'The Moonlit Shore.' Apart from whatever might have been the value of the original painting, this transcript is poetical. The full moon shines upon a rocky shore which the tide has left rugged and bare. The ribs of a broken and wrecked ship mark the dangers of the place, which is now so calm in its deathlike repose.

A few weeks since we remarked upon the architectural character of the Thames Bank, as recently

completed by the Metropolitan Board of Works, and confined ourselves to the designing of the granite wall. There are details in this gigantic structure which also seem to demand criticism; prominent among them are the bronze lions' heads, or rather faces, which decorate the piers of the wall and parapet. It has long been laid down as an axiom in Art that such decorations should be either conventional or naturalistic in design. For such cases as this, the severer and only logical rule decides for the former mode of treatment. Architectonic sculpture of the best order is invariably conventional, and such we should have desired for the examples in question. If, however, as in some of the debased schools of decoration, we choose for such works a naturalistic manner, it is undeniable that all their parts should be consistent. Now, these lions' heads are naturalistic in their treatment, yet not consistent, for while the manes, which give character to the faces, the forms of the features and their surfaces throughout, are imitated with considerable power and success from life, the rings which are placed within the jaws of the masks, are set in such a manner as could not occur in nature. This mode of placing the rings might be admissible in conventionalized heads, where nothing natural is intended, but it is illogically employed here. The masks, apart from this, seem to us too large for the pedestals against which they are placed. The rings themselves are obviously suggestive of the proper function of such things, to serve as fastenings for ropes by which to moor craft. It is presumed that we do not desire coal-barges to moor there: if so, why put rings which are mockeries instead of rational or logical ornaments, many of which might have been equally effective with those in question? To make the fact more absurd, the rings are sunk into the wall behind!

The prize of 50*l.*, which is annually awarded for the most approved picture in the Gallery of the Royal Manchester Institution, has been given to Mr. Mason, on account of his painting, 'The Evening Hymn,' which attracted much admiration at the Royal Academy this year.

The foundation-stone of the new Town Hall, at Manchester, the designing of which building having been given to Mr. A. Waterhouse, has been laid with much ceremony. This Hall will contain about 240 rooms, cost about half-a-million pounds, and comprise a clock-tower 250 feet high, i.e. one-fourth higher than the Monument, London.

In the course of a lecture recently delivered to the Northampton Architectural Society, Sir Henry Dryden referred to the neglected state and rapid disappearance of some among the most interesting and certainly the rarest historical monuments in France. The lecturer's remarks will surprise many who believe that our art and antiquity-loving neighbours excel ourselves in carefulness for treasures of this order,—believe indeed that a whole bureau is maintained with a special duty of supervising and preserving such antiquities as the megalithic stones of Brittany. Sir Henry Dryden declared "that these monuments are being destroyed as fast as they could be. He had visited the district in September, 1867, and when he went again, this year, he found that many of them had been destroyed, and one of the most curious dolmens was being carted away. They were bricking up some of the others while he was there. As the plans he had taken were accurate they would be of great use eventually. Very few of these remains were marked on the French ordnance maps, and not nearly so much interest had been taken in them by the French engineers as was the case in England. . . . As for the *Karlesant* (at Carnac), the enlightened owner was carting it away as fast as he could, and since he (Sir Henry) planned it, much of it had gone. A good deal was carted away in the interval between his two recent visits." Surely something should be done to stop this mischief. There are societies at Rennes, to say nothing of the well-known Archaeological Association at Caen in the neighbouring province, which might contrive to get these antiquities protected against further harm.

the ear; and her acting is stiff and constrained. Mr. G. Vincent is rapidly becoming one of the worst actors on the stage, so objectionable are his mannerisms. Mr. E. Atkins was colourless as *Champfagnie*. The reception of the drama, except in the trial scene, was enthusiastic. The special favourites of the house were Mr. Neville, Miss Furland, and Mr. Vincent.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC GOSSIP.

At to-day's Crystal Palace Concert an unknown work by Schubert, 'The Song of Miriam,' is to be performed for the first time.

Mozart's Clarinet Quintet and Mendelssohn's Quartet in D are the most important features of next Monday's Popular Concert.

"New musical winter evenings," to quote in full the somewhat clumsy title under which the concerts are advertised, are to be commenced on Wednesday next at St. George's Hall.

Mr. William Harrison, the quondam-popular tenor singer, died on Monday, after a long and painful illness. He had at one time a capable voice, and although he was never an artist in the true sense of the word, he identified himself with English opera during the time that the national lyric stage was constantly supplied with new works from the active pens of Mr. Balfe, Mr. Benedict, Mr. Macfarren, and the late Vincent Wallace. He was, indeed, for many years the most popular of English tenors. After amassing in America, in partnership with Miss Louisa Pyne, a considerable fortune, Mr. Harrison attempted to carry out the laudable idea of founding, in London, a national Opera. Having obtained from Mr. Balfe the exclusive acting-right in the 'Rose of Castile,' an opera which enjoyed for a long time extraordinary popularity, he achieved while at the Lyceum such success as emboldened him to lease Covent Garden during the winter season for a term of years. The enormous size of the theatre and the expenses attendant upon all the stage arrangements were found to be serious drawbacks, but Mr. Harrison's exclusiveness was probably the chief obstacle to success. The actor's self-esteem outweighed the manager's discretion. The lessee-tenor could brook no rival, nor could he even permit a competent soprano to encroach in any degree upon his accomplished partner's province. The result was inevitable; Mr. Harrison fell into distress; and the badly-managed benefit performance, given in the autumn at Covent Garden, proved of little or no service to a man who was ruined both in health and estate.

A new ballet, entitled 'Beda,' was produced on Saturday evening, at Drury Lane Theatre.

Mr. John S. Clarke, an American comedian, who formerly played at the St. James's Theatre, is now at the Strand, acting in 'The Widow Hunt,' an adaptation by the late Mr. Sterling Coyne of his play of 'Every Body's Friend,' previously produced at the Haymarket. The part in which Mr. Clarke now appears, *Major de Boots*, is that in which his *début* was made in England.

Miss Neilson has appeared at the Theatre Royal, Birmingham, in a drama adapted by a Birmingham dramatist, named C. Williams, from the 'Captain of the Vulture,' an early novel by Miss Braddon.

Mrs. Scott Siddons has made her first appearance in America, reading, in the Steinway Hall, New York, scenes from 'Macbeth' and 'As You Like It,' with a few lyrical pieces. Her reception was favourable, but the audience was not large.

Mr. H. J. Byron's drama, the 'Lancashire Lass,' has been played at Wallack's Theatre, New York. A dramatic version of Mr. Wilkie Collins's novel, 'The Moonstone,' is announced for production in Chicago.

Mr. Costa's 'Eli' was given at Stuttgart last week, under the immediate direction of the composer. The German version has been prepared by Dr. Grünisen, of Stuttgart, who, to judge from the specimens we have seen, has performed his difficult task with great skill. 'Eli' pleased the good people of Wurttemberg so well that they are going to follow it up with 'Naaman.'

Great preparations have been made lately for the production at the Grand Opera of 'Les Hugue-

notes,' with the restoration of many pieces which have hitherto been excised. A quartet in the second act—that is to say, in the Chenonceaux scene; the original ballet music in the third act—the *Pré-aux-Clères* scene; and a portion, usually omitted, of the *bénédiction des poignards*, are among the pieces restored. As hitherto played in Paris the opera is much longer than the version to which Londoners are accustomed,—and it is thought by them full long. What will it be in its amplified form? A certain performance once given here by a German company may serve as a point of comparison. On the occasion in question the opera began, if we recollect rightly, at seven o'clock, and was concluded at one in the morning! The scenery at the *Académie de Musique* has been repainted, and the ballet re-arranged for the present revival—if the word "revival" can be applied to a work which in vitality may compare with any other opera in being. The musical restorations have been made under the direction of M. Gevaert. Mdlle. Hissou was intended for the heroine, but as she was found deficient in force at last Sunday's general rehearsal the part has been assigned to Mdlle. Sars.

Mdlle. Mouravieff, the Russian dancer who found so many admirers at the Grand Opéra two seasons ago, and who eventually made a brilliant marriage, has just died at Kazan at the premature age of twenty-seven.

Signor Rossini underwent in the most satisfactory manner a dangerous operation, performed by M. Nélaton. But his state is still most precarious.

It appears that M. Rémusat, the flute-player, has formed at Shang-Hai, a musical society of 450 members for whose amusement an orchestra of thirty instrumentalists and a chorus of twenty-five singers are in the habit of periodically performing. Rossini's *Stabat Mater* is one of the pieces which are now being rehearsed. The performance of a hymn to the *Mater Dolorosa* must surely be a novelty to the inhabitants of the Celestial Empire.

The *Théâtre Lyrique* opened in disappointing fashion with nothing rarer than 'Le Val d'Andorre and Martha,' followed by 'Le Barbier de Séville.' It appears, however, that the old masters are to be gradually "exploited." Gluck's 'Iphigenia in Tauris,' and 'Méhul's 'Irató,' were both promised for this week, and Mozart's 'Idomeneo' is to be given during the winter.

M. Belot's new play, in five acts, 'Le Drame de la Rue de la Paix,' produced at the Odéon, is a complete failure, and will speedily be withdrawn. It is the story of a wife's attempted revenge upon the murderer of her husband. The man suspected of the murder escapes conviction. He is a young *élegant* of dissipated habits, and his persecutor, whom he does not know, has no great difficulty, with the aid of an amateur detective, in meeting him and making him fall in love with her. Unfortunately, before her task is completed, she finds herself reciprocating his affection. When, hoping and believing he can exonerate himself, she reveals her name a sudden horror seizes the man who is really the criminal. He stabs himself accordingly with the same knife with which the original murder was committed. Berton played the part of the murderer with much tact, but the audience was loud in expressions of discontent.

Dumas's wild drama of 'Madame de Chamblay' has been played at the Porte St.-Martin.

'L'Infant Prodiges,' a four-act comedy, by M. Becque, has been successfully produced at the Vaudeville. A son, who has departed from home with a world of good counsels from his father, profits by them in the fashion in which sons usually profit. In the house of a woman of more fashion than propriety he meets the father so full of prudent advice, and some amusing and not over-decorous scenes of *quid pro quo* ensue.

M. Victorien Sardou has read a new drama at the Gymnase. Mdlle. Antonine will return to this house and play a principal character. Among others, who have parts in it, are Madame Pasca and Angelo, and MM. Berton, Pradeau and Pujol.

'Une Histoire Ancienne,' a one-act comedy, by MM. Edmond About and De Najac, produced at the *Théâtre Français*, is for two actors only, and is admirably played by Madeline Brohan and Coquelin. It has a plot of exceptional nastiness.

MISCELLANEA

Spanish Medieval Art.—Lord Talbot de Malahide's letter in the *Times* of the 16th—or, at least, such portion of it as refers to the superb convent of Las Huelgas, at Burgos—will meet with cordial assent from all those interested in the preservation of that wealth of medieval Art scattered broadcast throughout the length and breadth of Spain. Late political events have as yet only placed at the front men who are not likely to sanction, or even wink at, iconoclasm of any form or description. Civil and religious liberty, as these patriots appear to understand their mission, does not mean anarchy and licentiousness. They are good Catholics, but not bigots. This same convent church of Las Huelgas, all lovers of Art may rest satisfied, will remain untouched and unharmed; while (in the eyes of a Protestant) those mistaken ladies who have within its walls accepted a voluntary exile from the world, cutting themselves adrift from those duties, cares and blessings which have summed woman's mission since the creation of the world, will remain probably in undisturbed possession of their self-imposed solitude. Such portion of their revenues as may prove to belong to the State will, of course, be "secularized"; but, inasmuch as every lady inmate is of "blue blood," and compelled on her entrance to bring her dowry in her hand—a reasonably fat one too, funds will probably remain amply sufficient to render unnecessary appeals to the outside faithful; while the jams, toothsome delicacies, amulets, and clean linen will be supplied to the sick poor gratis, and as abundantly as ever. Englishmen may well feel personal interest in a pile of buildings founded by a "fair English Eleanor" (Henry the Second's daughter). A goodly total of royal dust lies beneath the sculptured marble in this "Escorial del Norte,"—the tombs remaining to this day in excellent preservation. The "rancio Burgales" will not be "the Castellano viejo y rancio" of history I take him for, if he destroys a fine building at some good half-hour's walk from Burgos proper, and of no use but for a wine *bodega* or a cotton-mill. The invasion of San Pablo is much to be regretted; but under the late *régime* cavalry barracks were considered a greater State necessity than even Church accommodation, and so St. Paul's shrine went to the wall, and horses' nose-bags and soldiers' poetry jointly occupied the hallowed spot "where monks once chanted and censers swung"; but Santa Gadea remains, the altar before which "my Cid" bowed his mailed knee when shut out from his own "house and land by the King's stern command"; at least, so says 'The Poem of the Cid,' the oldest specimen of Trouvère poetry extant. A millennium dawns for students of the archives, &c., hitherto buried and inaccessible in the libraries of Madrid, the Escorial, Simancas, &c. One of the quickest-witted and noblest nationalities of Europe is working out its own emancipation. If left alone, they will do it bravely and well; for, in spite of Romish supervision, the schoolmaster has of late years been abroad and found apt pupils. Spain is profiting by his teaching in an unexpected and most satisfactory manner; in fact, the pupil has proved cleverer than his instructor. "Pan y Toros" will be an old joke now, and those who firmly believed the Spaniard to be ignorant, priest-ridden, and a bigot will have now to discard all their old authorities and write a man and a brother instead.

F. W. C.

A Curious Superstition.—Referring to the note of Mr. Ledger in your number for October 10th, on 'A Curious Superstition,' I find the following additional instance of the practice there referred to, in 'Discourses by the late Rev. James Peddie, D.D., with Memoir of his Life, by his son, the Rev. William Peddie, D.D.,' p. 78 (note to the memoir):—"It is a curious circumstance that when the pulpit of the old house (i.e. of the chapel in Bristo Street, Edinburgh, connected with the Secession church) was dismantled, there were found deposited in it, part underneath it, part in the canopy, twenty-four skeletons of heads of horses, for what purpose placed there it is impossible to divine; perhaps it might be from some idea that the neighbourhood of these skulls would aid the sound of the speaker's voice: a poor evidence, in this case, it must be confessed,

of the state of science among those who were concerned in the erection of the edifice."

W. TURNER.

Chaucer's Star "Aldryan" and Mr. Skeat's Grammar.—There are certain things which can be stood, from the assurance of correspondents, but some which cannot be. Among these latter I reckon "A. H.'s" sneer (*Ath.*, Nov. 7, p. 611, col. 3) at a man of Mr. Skeat's known ability in linguistics, for want of a knowledge of Anglo-Saxon grammar, because Mr. Skeat will not allow that a perfect participle is an imperfect one, that *drogen*, borne, suffered, endured (or undergone, acted, enjoyed, Beowulf), cannot mean *during*, or be the same as *dregende*. Moreover, A. H., seeing in Bosworth—if he used the 8vo. edition—the line "dragon pp. drogen," quotes Bosworth as making *dragon* a participle of *dregan*; whereas Bosworth does no such thing, but makes it the plural of the perfect tense, "we dragon," as A. H. would have seen if he had read the article with the least care. That A. H. should, while making two such tremendous blunders himself, sneer at Mr. Skeat's grammatical knowledge is a specimen of mixed ignorance and impudence such as has seldom come under my cognizance. M. A.

Book-Trimmers.—A binder tells me that the reason why so many of his class pare the edges of books so much, is just "greed." They want to save their millboard and their leather; they want to get as many shavings as they can to sell. Moreover, workmen are often careless, and make a crooked cut at first, which has to be remedied by further sacrifice of the book's margin. In the case of cheap contracts the edges are deliberately guillotined as close as they can be, in order that the shavings may be as heavy as possible to sell, and binding material saved. Those owners of books who want to keep their margins, and yet to have the edges trimmed, should write a word in pencil up to the edges of two or three leaves, and give the binder notice that if more than one letter is pared off, they will not pay him for binding the book. A.

Brether, Childer and Kye.—Can any one tell if *brether*, the original Anglo-Saxon and North-English plural of brother, is still in use in any of the Scottish or Northumbrian dialects. It is used by every northern writer from Cursor Mundi and Hampole to Gawain Douglas and Dunbar:—

Sen he has all my *brether* tane,
He will not let me live alane;
In force I maun his neist pre be,
Timor mortis conturbat me.

Is it now quite obsolete in the living northern dialects? 2. Where does the geographical boundary between the northern (and west-midland?) original plurals *brether*, *childer* and *kye*, and the southern double-plurals *brethren*, *children*, *kine*, occur in the living English dialects? Childer is used sparingly in Scotland, as in Buchan and Clydesdale (but *bairns* or *weans* usually replace it), and regularly in all the Northumbrian counties, as well as in Cheshire. *Kye* is common all over the same area. In Cheshire a single cow is called a *ky* (nearly as the plural is pronounced in Scotland), and the plural is *kyes* or *kaye* (nearly like *aye* in English, or, in the Glossotype of Mr. Ellis, *kāy*). How much further south do *childer* and *ky* extend? Observers resident in the midland counties are asked to aid in the determination of this point, by making known which of the forms, *childer* or *children*, *ky*, *kyes*, *kine* or *kyen*, *brether*, *brothers* or *brethren*, are in use in the popular dialect of their district.

J. A. H. M.

Chaucer Studies.—Your correspondent "J. D." is in a curious fog about Chaucer's Tales. First, Chaucer never wrote the Plowman's Tale at all; secondly, the Cook's Tale is joined on to the Reeve's, and belongs to the first day's journey; thirdly, the tales coming between the mention of Boughton and Bob-up-and-down are the Canon's, Yeoman's, Doctor's, and Pardoner's; fourthly, the Manciple's and Parson's Tales almost certainly belong to the return journey. L.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—W. C. M.—D. D.—W. C. T.—*Asinus*—received.

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